



Downpatrick

County Down

County Down's rolling hills, majestic mountains and island-dotted loughs were practically invented for relaxing weekends.

The county is dripping with history and heritage too, with picturesque towns and villages that will surprise you with their stories and delight you with their charms.



- 1. Castle Ward** Unique 18th century mansion with architectural mix.
- 2. Castlewellan Forest Park** contains the National Arboretum of Northern Ireland.
- 3. Down Cathedral** Saint Patrick's remains are buried in the graveyard.
- 4. Greyabbey** an 800 year old Cistercian abbey
- 5. Mount Stewart House & Gardens** Neo-classical house and celebrated gardens
- 6. Scrabo Tower** one of Northern Ireland's best known landmarks
- 7. St Patrick Centre** Welcome to the Home of Saint Patrick
- 8. Strangford Lough** most beautiful landscape of international importance
- 9. Tollymore Forest Park** For the student of garden follies,
- 10. Ulster Folk & Transport Museum** Experience life in a country town more than 100 years ago

1. Castle Ward See the gothic and classical collide on a rolling hillside, looking out over Strangford Lough. Step into a fantasy world of castles and dragons as you explore the Georgian farmyard and the Lough shore, film locations for Game of Thrones. Stroll through the sunken garden in this four tier Victorian garden.



2. Castlewellan Forest Park One of Northern Ireland's most famous lakes, a stunning Victorian Castle, incredible panoramic views, scenic walking trails, 27km of Mountain Bike Trails, Nature Play perfect for the kids, an on-site multi-activity center, hedge maze and equestrian center.



Down Cathedral is a Church of Ireland cathedral. It stands on the site of a Benedictine Monastery, built in 1183. Saint Patrick's remains are buried in the graveyard. Magnificent stained glass windows, box pews and beautiful organ case enhances this interesting building.



Mount Stewart House & Gardens reflects a rich tapestry of design and great planting artistry. The mild climate of Strangford Lough allows astonishing levels of planting experimentation. The formal areas exude a strong Mediterranean feel and resemble an Italian villa landscape; the wooded areas support a range of plants from all corners of the world.



St Patrick Centre Ciaran Hinds narrates the story of Saint Patrick guiding you through the multimedia exhibition following the life of Ireland's Patron Saint. The Imax presentation 'In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick' flies you to all of the places in Ireland associated with Patrick and tells his fascinating story.



Tollymore Forest Park A walk along the Shimna river is marked by many curiosities, natural and artificial - rocky outcrops, bridges, grottos and caves. Elsewhere in the park the tree lover can examine experimental forest plots or admire the tall giant redwoods and Monterey pines. Oak wood from Tollymore was the preferred material for the interior of the 'Titanic' which was built in Belfast.



Greyabbey is the best example of Anglo-Norman Cistercian architecture in Ulster. It was founded in 1193. Poor and decayed in the late Middle Ages, the abbey was dissolved in 1541 but in the early 17th century the nave was refurbished for parish worship until the late 18th century.



Scrabo Tower at the top of Scrabo Hill, overlooking Strangford Lough and the whole of North Down. The tower, which was built in 1857, is one of Northern Ireland's best known landmarks and the views from the top are spectacular. Inside the tower you can see an exhibition and short video detailing its history.



Strangford Lough is a unique and wonderful place of immense international importance for nature conservation. It is the largest sea lough in the British Isles, 20 miles long. It is one of only three designated Marine Nature Reserves in the UK. The wealth of wildlife, unrivalled in Europe, is complex, delicately balanced, dependent on tides, and the variety of habitats found.



Ulster Folk & Transport Museum The Folk Museum tells the story of life in early 20th century Ulster. A bygone era is recreated in a rural landscape of farms, cottages, traditional crops and local breeds of livestock. The Transport Museum creatively displays one of Europe's largest and most comprehensive transport collections in our permanent galleries.

