

Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk



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Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council



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Introducing Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk

**Welcome to the Saint Patrick's Way:
The Pilgrim Walk Passport. This Passport
aims to enhance your walking experience as
well as acting as a recorded souvenir of your
completed journey.**

**Starting at the Navan Centre in Armagh, this 82 mile
signed walking trail takes you through some of
Northern Ireland's most spectacular scenic landscapes
before ending at Saint Patrick's final resting place,
in the grounds of Down Cathedral.**

**Stamp your Passport at the 10 locations along the
route and present your completed stamped Passport
at The Saint Patrick Centre to receive your Certificate
of Achievement.**

**For further information visit:
www.visitarmagh.com
www.visitmournemountains.co.uk**

#PilgrimWalk

“

And I went about among you, and everywhere for your sake, in danger, and often to the outermost regions beyond which there is nothing where no one had ever gone before, to baptise, to ordain clergy or to confirm my people. Conscientiously and gladly I did all this work by God's gift for your salvation.

”

Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick's Confession





Navan Centre & Fort

Armagh Navan Centre & Fort

Navan Fort known in old Irish as Emain Macha was the ancient seat of kings and the earliest capital of Ulster. The landscape around Navan is rich in buried remains and impressive earthworks, settlement sites and sacred places. It is an area of unparalleled archaeological importance, which reflects over 7,500 years of activity. Excavation showed that the few centuries before the time of Christ saw Navan at its most remarkable.

The stories associated with Emain about the legendary heroes of Ulster, believed to have lived here, encouraged later Irish kings to make Emain a rallying point, and it is surely significant that Saint Patrick built his church at the nearby Ard Macha (Armagh) and that Brian Ború came to Navan in 1005.

Directions to Stamper Location 1

If you make your way along the path towards the Fort the stamper is located at the Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk interpretation panel.

I have visited Location 1 –

Stamp in the box below

2

Armagh Abbey Street/ Dawson Street

Standing here in the heart of the ancient city of Armagh you will find a unique sense of place. Saint Patrick established his principal church here during the mid-400s and it was according to the *'Annals of the Four Masters'* in the year 457 where he decreed that only those educated in Armagh could spread the gospel.

Today Armagh remains the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and the seat of the Archbishops of Armagh and the Primate of all Ireland for both the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland faiths.

The city is rich in Georgian architecture and Christian heritage with two cathedrals both named after Saint Patrick. The Church of Ireland Cathedral dates back to 445 and it is here that Brian Ború, High King of Ireland is buried.

Directions to Stamper Location 2

At the Abbey Street/
Dawson Street junction,
look to the left to see
the stamper positioned
on the pier next to the
house marked with the
plaque *The Victorian
Registry 1904*.

I have visited Location 2 –

Stamp in the box below



The Palace Demesne

Armagh The Palace Demesne

Created by Archbishop Robinson the Palace is set within 300 acres of surrounding parkland and for more than two centuries (1770 -1975) was the residence of the Archbishop of the Church of Ireland. Other features of note include the Palace Stables, Palace Chapel, Ice House and Saint Bridget's Well.

Walk in the Demesne through meadows and formal gardens and read about the Demesne's fascinating history.

Beside the entrance to the grounds of the Palace stand the ruins of the longest Franciscan Friary in Ireland. This Friary was founded by Archbishop Patrick O'Scannail in 1263/64 and played a prominent role in the city's religious life until the Friary was suppressed in 1542 with the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII.

Directions to Stamper Location 3

The stamper is located on the inner left pier at the vehicular entrance to the Palace Demesne travelling from Friary Road.

I have visited Location 3 –

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4

Banbridge Hollie Berrie at the Tearooms, Scarva

(on the Newry Canal Towpath)

Newry Canal is the oldest summit level canal in Britain and Ireland which connected Portadown to Newry passing through 14 lock gates. Opened in 1742 it was initially dug by inland navigators or 'havvies' who had to bring their own tools and live in temporary camps along the canal. The canal played an important part in transporting coal from Coalisland, County Tyrone, to Dublin at a time when road transport was difficult. Navigation on the canal ceased in 1946.

Directions to Stamper Location 4

The stamper is located outside the main entrance to the Tearooms on the Newry Canal Towpath.

I have visited Location 4 –

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Acton Visitor Centre

Banbridge Acton Visitor Centre

The Acton Visitor Centre sits on the site of the former Sluice Keeper's cottage.

Acton Lake, or Lough Shark as it is also known, provided the summit reservoir for the Newry Canal. Here the water in the Canal was controlled by a sluice that regulated the water level in the navigation. From this point water flowed north towards Portadown and also southwards towards Newry.

The centre is operated by the Newry Section of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI).

Directions to Stamper Location 5

The stamper can be found at the entrance to the Acton Visitor Centre.

I have visited Location 5 –

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Sean Hollywood Arts Centre

Newry Sean Hollywood Arts Centre

As one of the oldest towns in Ireland, Newry's origins can be traced back to the Early Christian period. Local tradition, based on an entry in the *'Annals of the Four Masters'* dating from 1162, credits Saint Patrick with the planting of a yew tree 'at the head of the strand' above the Clanrye River. This gave Newry its name – Iubhair Cinn Tragha.

Built in 1840 as Newry Savings Bank, the building later became Newry Municipal Technical School. The Classical style façade was retained when the building was rebuilt and opened as an Arts Centre in 1980. It was renamed in 2003, in honour of the late Sean Hollywood, who was involved in local drama circles.

Directions to Stamper Location 6

The stamper is located at the side of the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

I have visited Location 6 –

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7



Bagenal's Castle

Newry Bagenal's Castle

Originally the site of Newry's Cistercian Abbey which was founded in 1153, the estates of the Abbey were confirmed to it in 1157 by Muirchertach Mac Lochlainn, High King of Ireland. The Reformation saw the dissolution of the Cistercian Abbey at Newry and, in 1552, the Abbey and its lands were granted to Nicholas Bagenal, who built the castle.

Today the building is home to the Newry and Mourne Museum and Visitor Information Centre. Here you will find diverse collections including material relating to pre-history, Newry's Cistercian foundations, Ulster's Gaelic order and the relationship with the English crown, the building of a merchant town and the first summit level canal in the British Isles. A set of robes belonging to the Order of Saint Patrick are also on display.

Directions to Stamper Location 7

The stamper is located outside Bagenal's Castle next to the entrance gate at the car park.

I have visited Location 7 –

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Rostrevor Entrance to Kilbroney Park

Kilbroney Forest Park at the Victorian village of Rostrevor is situated close to the shore of Carlingford Lough in the shadow of the forest clad Slieve Martin. This 97 acre forest park features a forest drive, mountain bike trails and CS Lewis inspired Narnia Trail.

It is here within the park where you will find the Cloughmore Stone which sits approximately 1000 feet above Rostrevor. Local folklore claims the stone was thrown here by Finn Mac Cool during a fight with a Scottish Giant. Allegedly it landed on the unfortunate's head crushing his great body back into the mountain where it melted away like ice beneath the stone. Finn overtaxed himself with the mighty effort and lay down to sleep. He never awakened and, as the years passed by, his great body turned to rock and its outline can be seen to this day.

Directions to Stamper Location 8

The stamper is located on the stone pillar at the gates of the pedestrian entrance to Kilbroney Park, next to the Fairy Glen.

I have visited Location 8 –

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Newcastle Promenade

Newcastle Newcastle Visitor Information Centre

Newcastle seaside resort lies in the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark. It is located on the Irish Sea coast at the base of Slieve Donard Mountain, the highest peak in Northern Ireland.

Home to the Famous Royal County Down Golf Club, Newcastle is rich in history and folklore. It is here that popular mythology states that Saint Patrick banished snakes from Ireland. The Saint is also thought to have visited the Mournes on his first landings to Ireland and converted the local hill folk to Christianity. A small stream marks the boundary of the Kingdom of Mourne and legend has it that there is a rock in the stream with Saint Patrick's hand print in it where he knelt down to drink the water.

Directions to Stamper Location 9

The stamper is located outside the entrance to Newcastle Visitor Information Centre.

I have visited Location 9 –

Stamp in the box below



The Saint Patrick Centre

Downpatrick The Saint Patrick Centre

Congratulations! You have come to the end of your journey and completed the Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk.

You are standing outside The Saint Patrick Centre, which explores the life and legacy of Patrick through the only exhibition in the world dedicated to the Patron Saint.

On top of the hill behind the Centre you can visit Down Cathedral, which stands on the site of a Benedictine Monastery built in 1183. In the adjoining Cathedral graveyard you will find the final resting place of Saint Patrick marked simply with a granite stone taken from the nearby Mourne Mountains.

Present your completed stamped passport at the reception desk in The Saint Patrick Centre to receive your Certificate of Achievement.

Directions to Stamper Location 10

The stamper can be found outside The Saint Patrick Centre on the Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk interpretation panel.

I have visited Location 10 –

Stamp in the box below

Visitor Information Centres

Armagh County Museum

The Mall East

Armagh

BT61 9BE

☎ +44 28 3752 3070

@ vic@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Kilkeel Visitor

Information Centre

The Nautilus Centre

Rooney Road

Kilkeel

BT34 4AG

☎ +44 28 4176 2525

FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio

200 Newry Road

Banbridge

BT32 3NB

☎ +44 28 4062 3322

@ vic@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Newcastle Visitor Information Centre

10-14 Central Promenade

Newcastle

BT33 0AA

☎ +44 33 0137 4046

@ visitorservices@nmandd.org

Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre

The Saint Patrick Centre

53a Market Street

Downpatrick

BT30 6LZ

☎ +44 28 4461 9000

@ visitorservices@nmandd.org

Newry Visitor Information Centre

Bagenal's Castle

Castle Street

Newry

BT34 2BY

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Saint Patrick's Way: The Pilgrim Walk



Area

ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE, NEWRY,
ROSTREVOR, NEWCASTLE, DOWNPATRICK

Country

NORTHERN IRELAND

Starting Location

ARMAGH

End Location

DOWNPATRICK

Distance

82 MILES / 132 KM

