



Making Memories Magical
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Cooley Peninsula, Ring of Gullion, Carlingford

1 Day Coach Tour

As some of my own favourite Tours, I am still impressed with the quantity and quality of stories, legends and folklore which are part of the landscapes here. The combination of scenery and stories compare very favourably with any other part of this country.

Cooley and Carlingford, is designated as a 'European Destination of Excellence' since 2008, while Gullion is designated as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'.



The Cattle Raid of Cooley or Tain Bo Cuailngne, is the premier legend in all of Ireland. It is set here. In recent times, the film-star Michael Fassbender has expressed an interest in creating a film version of the legend, through his production company Finn McCool Films. This is the countryside at the centre of this interest.

In the Ulster Cycle of Irish Mythology Donn Cúailnge, the Brown Bull of Cooley, was an extremely fertile stud bull over whom the Tain Bo Cuailngne (Cattle Raid of Cooley) was fought, where Cuchulainn the local hero, stood alone, against the entire army of Connaught and their allies.

Its setting was in the Iron Age Ireland, around 100BC-100AD, in the area of North Co. Louth, the beautiful Cooley Peninsula, as well as the equally scenic, Slieve Gullion area of South Armagh.

These are not the only famous stories found here, other famous legends related to these excursions, are, St Brigid's birthplace at Faughart, Edward de Bruce, last High-King of Ireland, the Proleek Dolmen, The Long Woman's Grave, the Magic Hill, the Poc Fada, Fionn McCool's Grave, St James of Cooley and Spain, not to mention all the local stories built into the landscape.

This tour is about storytelling on the move, where every turn on the road hints and then reveals another treasure of our heritage and culture.

Sample Tours Schedule:

A modern coach with friendly driver and our experienced guide will collect you at a location of your choice. The guide will welcome you on board and will outline the day's itinerary as you embark on your tour.

The excursion begins with a brief tour of the Gateway town of Dundalk, its development through the ages, to its current role at the forefront of renewable energy in Ireland.

From there, the journey takes us by Knockbridge and Cuchulainn's Stone, then over to the picturesque Roche Castle, where we move through Glassdrummond to the Poets graveyard at Creggan.

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Irish Guided Tours / Marsh Road, Bellurgan, Dundalk, Co. Louth

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We begin exploring the magic of the Ring Dyke of Gullion, with its one time volcano at its centrepiece, where the deeds of Cuchulainn, Fionn MacCumhaill (McCool) and the Children of Lir have their legendary setting.

The ancient and unique churches of Killeavy share the area with neolithic monuments and scenery to satisfy any photographer.

Leaving the Ring Dyke, we next pass through the historic Gap o' the North, with Moyry Castle and the Kilnasaggart Stone nearby, as we go onto the Hill of Faughart.

St Brigid's birthplace is admired today for its stillness as it was the place where the first Brigid's cross was woven from rushes, over 1500 years ago, a tradition still alive and well today.

Further up the Hill is Faughart Graveyard and the resting place of Ireland's last High King, Edward Bruce. This part of the hill encompasses one of the finest viewpoints in this part of the country. The links between the scenery and the folklore are what makes this tour unique.

The Long Woman's Grave holds more than one secret, find out the real story of this legend. Carlingford's is famous for the medieval buildings in the town and we will take a brief walking tour of its narrow streets before having a short break here. The Victorian Railway Port village of Greenore is unique in Ireland, having changed over time its importance is growing once more.

Yet this part of the Peninsula also has legends to share including its Knights Templar connection to the peninsula's Patron, St James.

We can visit his church, one of the oldest of its type nationally, sitting under the shadow of Bearnavave and reminding us of the Tain connection to Maeve's Connaught Army.

Cost includes:

- Modern Coach with friendly, experienced driver
- Specialist local guide with live commentary throughout the tour,

There is ample time for photographs and some shopping, to enjoy its castle and views of the mountains of Mourne.

Please refer to our price list online or contact us. We offer a range of additional options for you to choose from including:

- Music and entertainment by local Traditional musicians with a meal in a local hostelry
- Visit to a local oyster farm on the shores of Carlingford Lough. See, hear, smell and taste why this great local product is exported to the top tables throughout Europe
- A tasting session of Award winning Cooley Whiskey at the local Cooley Distillery. It currently produces 1.5 million litres of pure alcohol and fills about 12,000 barrels of whiskey annually. Cooley produces Single Malt whiskeys and blends, both under their own labels and for independent bottlers and distributors
- Overnight, Walking and Private Tours available too

An rud a líonas an tsúil, líonann sé an croí

What fills the eye, fills the heart

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