

## Keeping in Touch: Museums

Our children have different interests. Now more than ever, it is important that we keep in touch with those interests or why not investigate a new interest, one example would be museums.

There are many educational benefits to museums:

- Encourages a Love of History- Museums are the caretakers of our history
- Listening to Stories- Museums are full of stories, and it is critical for our children to hear those stories. Stories told not only teach our children history but also encourage empathy
- Compare and Contrast- Museums offer opportunities for children to compare and contrast what is important to them which leads to higher critical thinking skills
- Encourages Questions- A museum opens the door for your child's curiosity in the form of questions. Some of these will be questions that have answers, questions that should be encouraged, questions that make you think, and questions that may not have answers. All of these questions should be encouraged
- Boosts Language Development- For young children, boosting language development revolves around identifying words while for older children the exposure to new concepts and ideas will carry higher level vocabulary
- Encourages New Ideas- The purpose behind this is to expose ourselves as well as our children to new ideas and concepts
- Museums Inspire- Museums inspire us to wonder, imagine and dream of possibilities that are beyond what we know
- Sparks Creativity- Through museum programs and activities, children are exposed to opportunities that spark creative moments.
- Fosters Family Bonding- Some museums have specific activities and days dedicated to families

- Creates Lifelong Learners- Museums encourage curiosity which is necessary for children to become lifelong learners

### **So how can my children keep in touch with museums from their own home?**

The following will give you examples of how to keep your child engaged with their interest or to give your child exposure to a number of the many rich museums in Ireland. They might like to send a post card or an email to their teacher or maybe a relative to tell them about what they have learned!

#### **National Museum of Ireland**

The National Museum of Ireland is Ireland's leading museum institution, with a strong emphasis on national and some international archaeology, Irish history, Irish art, culture, and natural history.



It has three branches in Dublin and one in County Mayo:

- National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology, Dublin
- National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Dublin
- National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, near Castlebar
- National Museum of Ireland – Natural History, Dublin

Your child can enjoy a virtual tour of the National Museum of Ireland at <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Exhibitions> or why not follow their Twitter page for daily updates: <https://twitter.com/NMIreland>

### **Kilmainham Gaol Museum**

Kilmainham Gaol opened in 1796 as the new County Gaol for Dublin. It closed its doors in 1924.



#### **Some interesting facts:**

- The building symbolises the tradition of militant and constitutional nationalism from the rebellion of 1798 to the Irish Civil War of 1922-23
- Leaders of the rebellions of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were detained and in some cases executed here
- Many members of the Irish Republican movement during the Anglo-Irish War (1919-21) were also detained in Kilmainham Gaol, guarded by British troops. Names such as Henry Joy McCracken, Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin, Charles Stewart Parnell and the leaders of 1916 will always be associated with the building.

You can learn more at <http://kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/>

### **Waterford Treasures Medieval Museum**

The museum tells the story of Waterford, Ireland's oldest city founded by the Vikings in 914.

#### **Some interesting facts:**

- The story of the city starts at Reginald's Tower a 12th century mural tower where the Viking museum is located
- The exhibits include a set of Viking warrior armour dating to the 9th century
- Among the great treasures of international importance on display is the 4 metre long Great Charter Roll dated to 1373 and the 15th century cloth of gold vestments the only set to survive in Northern Europe
- The largest collection of historic Waterford Glass in the world is on display and the oldest landscape view of an Irish city William Van der Hagens view of Waterford 1736.

Why not take the virtual tour at

<http://www.waterfordtreasures.com/medieval-museum/the-experience/virtual-tour> or discover the collection at Waterford Treasures

Medieval Museum with director, Eamonn McEneaney, every morning on WLR-FM radio



### **Glasnevin Cemetery Museum**

The first cemetery opened in Goldenbridge in 1828. This was followed four years later by Glasnevin Cemetery which evolved to become the Ireland's national cemetery which now covers an area of 124 acres with over 1.5 million people laid to rest within its walls. The cemetery has been beautifully restored and sympathetically designed to enhance the natural beauty of Ireland's largest cemetery. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th century, Glasnevin Cemetery became the resting place of some of the most well-known figures in Irish history such as: Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins, Éamon de Valera and Constance Markievicz to name but a few. Glasnevin Cemetery Museum was opened in 2010.

The following website offers educational packs and worksheets, they can be accessed at [https://www.glasnevinmuseum.ie/classroom\\_resources/](https://www.glasnevinmuseum.ie/classroom_resources/)





### **Michael Davitt Museum**

The Michael Davitt Museum contains an extensive collection of historical artefacts including original documents, photos, Land Acts, letters, postcards, posters, rosary beads and other items connected with Michael Davitt's life and his campaign work within the National Land League.

#### **Some interesting facts:**

- Davitt was a social reformer, Member of Parliament, author, GAA Patron, Patron of Glasgow Celtic FC, labour leader and international humanitarian
- Davitt is Mayo's most famous son and Ireland's greatest Patriot
- Michael Davitt was christened in 1846 during the time of the Great Famine in the Penal Church in Straide. The church is adjacent to the 13th Century remains of Straide Abbey. Michael Davitt is buried in the cloister area of the Abbey

Why not research this iconic figure at

<http://www.michaeldavittmuseum.ie/history/>



### **GAA Museum- Croke Park**

The GAA museum not only celebrates the history of Ireland's national games, it also vividly brings to life how the GAA has contributed to our cultural, social and sporting heritage.

Featured exhibitions include the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups, the rousing Hall of Fame, and a whole floor dedicated to the games as they are today.

Why not research more at:

<https://crokepark.ie/gaa-museum-tours/gaa-museum/exhibitions>



### **Foynes Flying Boat Museum**

Travel back to the 1930s and '40s, when Foynes played a pivotal role in establishing commercial transatlantic passenger flights. Learn the history of Flying Boats and the diverse range of people who arrived and departed from Foynes.

Some interesting facts:

- Did you know that Foynes Flying Boat museum is the only flying boat museum in the world!
- The Maritime Museum portrays the history and personality of the River Shannon from Limerick City to Loop Head. The River Shannon is a huge feature in the history and mythology of Ireland and this new museum features some of that history
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum boasts the only full size replica of a Boeing B314 Flying Boat. The Boeing 314 has become the “quintessential” Pan Am Clipper flying boat – the one people think of when they recall the era during which Foynes flourished as the hub of aviation activity between North America and Europe during World War II

Find out more at <https://www.flyingboatmuseum.com/aviation-museum/>

