

Discover North Down

Guided tours of North Down on foot and by coach

April - September 2012

Exploring Times!



northdowntourism.com

2012 Tours

Date	Tour	Time	Price	Maximum Number
April				
Sunday 22	Groomsport to Ballyholme Coastal Walk	14:30	£3*	25
Saturday 28	Dawn Chorus, Redburn Country Park	05:00	Free [§]	25
May				
Sunday 6	Hollywood Through the Ages Historical Walk	14:30	£3	25
Saturday 12	Christian Heritage Walk, Bangor	14:30	£3	25
Saturday 26	Ulster Scots Bus Tour of North Down	10:30	£6	30
June				
Sunday 3	Queen's Jubilee Celebration Walk	14:30	Free [§]	25
Sunday 10	Crawfordsburn to Bangor Coastal Walk	10:30	£3	25
Thursday 14	Coastal Bird Watching	18:30	£3	25
Saturday 16	Christian Heritage Bus Tour of North Down & Ards	09:30	£10	30
Sunday 24	Bangor Through the Ages Historical Walk	14:30	£3	25
Saturday 30	Kids Nature Trail, Castle Park, Bangor	10:30	Free [§]	25
July				
Monday 9	Step Back in Time, Bangor	14:30	£4	25
Tuesday 10	Bangor Abbey Graveyard Tour	19:00	£3	25
Wednesday 18	Walled Garden & Castle Park Tour	18:30	£3	25
Saturday 21	Ulster Scots Bus Tour of North Down & Ards	09:30	£10	30
Wednesday 25	Crawfordsburn Family Walk & Bird Box Making	11:00/ 14:00	£5	25






*Children go free §Max. 6 tickets per person

Date	Tour	Time	Price	Maximum Number
August				
Saturday 4	Kids' Beach Comb, Crawfordsburn	10:30	Free [§]	50
Sunday 5	Walled Garden & Castle Park Tour	14:30	£3	25
Monday 6	Step Back in Time, Bangor	14:30	£4	25
Wednesday 15	Kids Nature Trail, Castle Park, Bangor	14:30	Free [§]	25
Thursday 16	Bangor Abbey Graveyard Tour	19:00	£3	25
Sunday 19	Hollywood Through the Ages Historical Walk	14:30	£3	25
Tuesday 21	Christian Heritage Walk, Bangor	14:30	£3	25
Friday 24	Bangor Through the Ages Historical Walk	19:30	£3	25
Saturday 25	Hollywood to Crawfordsburn Coastal Walk	10:30	£3	25
Sunday 26	Bangor to Orlock Coastal Walk	11:30	£3	25
September				
Sunday 9	Kids Nature Trail, Crawfordsburn	14:30	Free [§]	50
Sunday 23	Walled Garden & Castle Park Tour	10:30	£3	25
Thursday 27	Aspects Festival, Bangor Literary Walk	14:30	£3	20

*Children go free [§]Max. 6 tickets per person

Please note these walks are not for organised groups to avail of. If desired these can be arranged separately at a minimal cost, contact for more details.

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Discover North Down 2012

Discover North Down's fascinating landscape, history and heritage with our 'off -the-beaten-track' programme of walks and tours.

Our 2012 programme has been designed by local experts and professional Blue Badge Guides to allow you the chance to experience the rich history of North Down.

So come and discover North Down: Bangor, Holywood, Groomsport, Crawfordsburn and Helen's Bay, an area 16 miles long, four miles down and many centuries deep.

Tickets are available from Bangor Tourist Information Centre and North Down Museum.



Historical Walking Tours

Hollywood Through the Ages

Sunday 6th May, 14:30

Sunday 19th August, 14:30

Meeting point: Outside the Maypole Bar, Hollywood

This walk covers the town's colourful past from its first recorded reference in the 7th century through to the town's rich ecclesiastical and educational history



touching on such characters as Robert Sullivan the noted educationalist.

Approximate tour length: 1½ hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)

Christian Heritage Bangor Tour

Saturday 12th May, 14:30

Tuesday 21st August, 14:30

Meeting point: Bangor Abbey

This tour visits sites including Bangor Abbey, St Comgall's Roman Catholic Church, First Bangor Presbyterian Church and the North Down Museum that houses various interesting artefacts including a life-size reconstruction of a monk's cell.

Approximate tour length: 2 hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)



Bangor Through the Ages

Sunday 24th June, 14:30

Friday 24th August, 19:30

Meeting point: Tower House, Bangor Tourist Information Centre, Quay Street, Bangor.

With Bangor's enriched history including the Bronze Age settlements, World War II and Bangor's development as a seaside town, this walk takes in points of interest including the North Down Museum, Bangor Abbey and parks and gardens. Approximate tour length: 1½ - 2 hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)





Bangor Abbey Graveyard Tour

Tuesday 10th July 19:00

Thursday 16th August 19:00

Meeting point: Bangor Abbey

Discover some of the graveyard's most famous graves and memorials, including a memorial to John Simpson, surgeon on the Titanic and the graves of Archibald Wilson, hanged after the 1798 rebellion and W.G. Lyttle, author of 'Betsy Gray' the popular novel about the rebellion.

Approximate tour length: 1 hour
(tea / coffee served at tour end).

Tickets £3 (All proceeds go to the Friends of Bangor Abbey, Limited to 25 persons)



Themed Walking Tours

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration Walk

Sunday 3rd June, 14:30

Meeting point: Tower House, Bangor Tourist Information Centre, Quay Street, Bangor.

Retrace the footsteps of the Queen during her previous visits to Bangor in this themed walk. Celebrate our Royal Connections and learn more about the history of the area. This walk is part of the Bank Holiday weekend celebrations.

Tickets Free (Limited to 25 persons)

Step Back in Time

Monday 9th July, 14:30

Monday 6th August, 14:30

Meeting point: North Down Museum

Get a glimpse into the history of the Ward Family who built Bangor Castle



in 1852 and discover what life was like as a Victorian servant. Take this rare opportunity to tour Bangor Castle and the

Walled Garden followed by afternoon tea in the Castle Garden Restaurant.

This tour will last approx 1½ - 2 hours.

Tickets £4 (Limited to 25 persons)

Aspects Festival, Bangor Literary Walk

Thursday 27th September, 14.30

Meeting point: North Down Museum



Join the Aspects Irish Literature Festival Director Emeritus, Kenneth Irvine on this walking tour that celebrates the rich and eclectic literary heritage of Bangor.

Charlotte Bingham, Lord Dufferin, Colin Bateman, Frederick Forsythe, Derek Mahon and Michael Longley are among the famous names whose work is celebrated.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 20 persons)

Coach Tours

Ulster Scots Bus Tour of North Down – The James Hamilton 1606 Trail

Saturday 26th May 10:30

Meeting Point: North Down Museum, Bangor, (Return approx 1pm)

The tour begins at North Down Museum where you will discover the Borough's Ulster Scots heritage and view artifacts



and the new interactive Raven map exhibit. The tour continues to Groomsport, the departure point for the Eagle Wing ship, Holywood, Clondeboye and Cultra. The tour concludes at Bangor Abbey before returning to North Down Museum.

Approximate tour length: 3 hours 45 mins.

Tickets £6 (Limited to 30 persons)

North Down & Ards Christian Heritage Bus Tour

Saturday 16th June

Meeting point: Coach collection at Ards Tourist Information Centre, 31 Regent Street at 9.30am or meet at North Down Museum, Bangor, where the tour begins at 10am. (Return approx 3pm)

This tour offers an insight into the importance played by North Down and

Newtownards in the growth and spread of Christianity throughout Europe.

The tour begins with the North Down Museum's collection of artifacts from Bangor's first monastic settlements and then moves on to Bangor Abbey and graveyard where you will stop for a coffee break before continuing to Newtownards and the Cistercian, Grey Abbey founded in 1193 by Affreca.

After a lunch break the tour travels to Nendrum Monastery on Mahee Island in Strangford Lough, one of the finest surviving examples of an early Christian Monastery in Ireland founded in the 5th century.



The tour will return to Newtownards at approx 2.45pm and Bangor at 3pm.

Refreshments are not included in the cost of the tour. A coffee break will be available at the Bangor Abbey stop and time will be given for lunch en route to Nendrum. Approximate tour length: 5 hours

Tickets £10 (Limited to 30 persons)

North Down & Ards Ulster Scots Bus Tour

Saturday 21st July

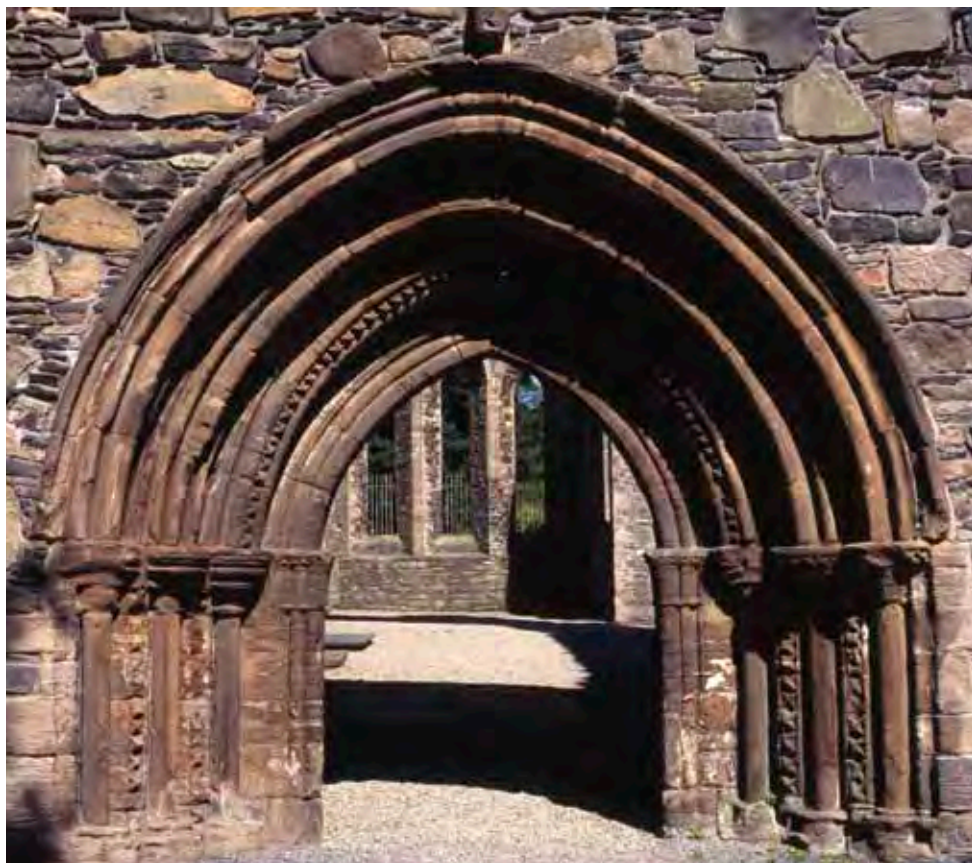
Meeting point: Coach collection at Ards Tourist Information Centre, 31 Regent Street at 9.30am or meet at North Down Museum, Bangor, where the tour begins at 10am. (Return approx 3pm)

The tour takes in Newtownards and North Down, the birthplace of Ulster Scots. Its coastline, Abbeys and monuments tell the tale of the region's deep connection with Scotland and the Ulster Scots story, from the settlements of Hamilton and Montgomery in 1606 to the Rebellion



in 1798. You will also visit North Down Museum and see the new interactive Raven Map exhibit detailing this unique Ulster-Scots artifact.

Tickets £10 (Limited to 30 persons)



Nature Trails

Dawn Chorus, Redburn Country Park

Saturday 28th April, 05:00

**Meeting point: Redburn Country
Park, Car Park**

Join well-known bird expert Dot Blakely who will teach you to recognise the songs of the dawn chorus. The tour will also take in the history of Redburn Country Park including its time as the private zoo of the Dunville family of distillers.

Approximate tour length: 3 hours.
Walking boots needed.

Tickets Free (Limited to 25 persons)

Kids Nature Trail in Castle Park, Bangor

Saturday 30th June 10:30

Wednesday 15th August, 14:30

**Meeting point: North Down Museum,
Bangor**

Join this interactive nature trail led by Patrick Cregg from the Woodland Trust and well-known bird expert Dot Blakely, where you will learn all about the natural habitat and bird life that exist in the Castle Park grounds.



Approximate tour length: 2 hours and covers around 2 miles of Castle Park, finishing at the North Down Museum.

Tickets Free (Limited to 25 persons)

Walled Garden & Castle Park Tour, Bangor

Wednesday 18th July, 18:30*

Sunday 5th August, 14:30

Sunday 23rd September, 14:30

**Meeting point: North Down Museum,
Bangor**



The Bangor Castle Walled Garden was never open to the public when it was built in the 1840s. North Down Borough Council restored the beautiful Garden and officially opened it as a visitor attraction 2009. This tour gives an insight into the garden and its history and includes a Question & Answer session.

Approximate tour length: 1½ hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)

* Please note tickets must be pre-purchased and will not be available at the Garden

Crawfordsburn Family Woodland Walk & Bird Box Making

Wednesday 25th July,
11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00
Meeting point: Visitor Centre,
Crawfordsburn Country Park

This guided woodland walk will take you and your little ones on a mini beast and scavenger hunt. Join in the woodland games and pond dipping where you will meet the watery creatures that live there.

Also included in the tour is an exciting Make your own Bird Box session, which is yours to take away and put up in your garden to encourage nesting birds to visit.

Activities led by local environmental Education Guide.

Tour Length: 2 hours

Tickets £5 (Limited to 25 persons per session)



Kids Beach Comb, Crawfordsburn

Saturday 4th August, 10:30
Meeting point: Education Centre,
Crawfordsburn Country Park



With beach art, games, seaside exploration, shelter building and rock pooling for “creatures from the deep”, the beach comb is sure to keep the kids entertained.

Approximate tour length: 2 hours

Tickets Free (Kids will be split into two age groups, 6 and under and 7 plus. Each group is limited to approximately 25)

Kids Nature Trail, Crawfordsburn

Sunday 9th September, 14:30
Meeting point: Education Centre,
Crawfordsburn Country Park

Enjoy a guided woodland walk filled with fun activities such as scavenger hunts, shelter building, bird watching and finding the mini-beasts that live in the woods.

Approximate tour length: 2 hours

Tickets Free (Kids will be split into two age groups, 6 and under and 7 plus. Each group limited to approximately 25)

Coastal Walks

Groomsport to Ballyholme Coastal Path Walk

Sunday 22nd April, 14:30

Meeting point: Cockle Row Cottages,
Groomsport



Beginning at the Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport you will walk along the coastal path to Bangor whilst learning all about the history of the area, flora and fauna.

Approximate tour length: 1-1½ hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)

Crawfordsburn to Bangor Coastal Path Walk

Sunday 10th June, 10:30

Meeting point: Education Centre
Reception

Exploring part of the Country Park and the North Down coastal path the walk gives you a chance to learn about the local history, landscape and its wildlife.

Approximate tour length: 1½-2 hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)

Coastal Bird Watching

Thursday 14 June, 18.30

Meeting point: Jetty at Pickie
Funpark, Bangor

Discover some of the birdlife along the coast from Pickie to Strickland's Glen. Learn about the shoreline birds including Eider, Shellduck and Tern. The walk will lead you into the Glen where you will have the opportunity to view our native birds including Robin and Blackbird; you might also get lucky and spot the migratory Willow Warbler.

This walk will last approximately 2½ hours and will include moderate walking.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)





Hollywood to Crawfordsburn Coastal Path Walk

Saturday 25th August, 10:30

Meeting point: Redburn Square,
Hollywood (opposite Hollywood train
station)

Led by a Blue Badge Guide the walk will follow the coastal path from Hollywood to Crawfordsburn and cover the history of the area.

Approximate tour length: 1½-2 hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)

Bangor to Orlock Coastal Path Walk

Sunday 26th August, 11:30

Meeting point: Tower House, Bangor
Tourist Information Centre, Quay
Street, Bangor.

Led by a Blue Badge Guide the walk follows the coastal path to the National Trust Reserve at Ballymacormick Point and then on to the Cockle Row Cottages at Groomsport, where there will be a short comfort break before you continue on to Orlock Point.

Approximate tour length: 2½ hours.

Tickets £3 (Limited to 25 persons)



For more information visit www.northdowntourism.com or call **028 9127 0069**

Booking Your Tour

- All tours and walks are on a ticket only basis.
- Tickets can be purchased through Bangor Tourist Information Centre, 34 Quay Street, Bangor, BT20 5ED
T: 0289127 0069 or North Down Museum where stated.
- All major credit and debit cards (except AMEX) are accepted.
- Tickets can be posted (50p administrative fee applies) or collected from Bangor Tourist Information Centre.
- A maximum of six tickets can be purchased by one person.
- Free walks cannot be block-booked by organised groups or companies.
- Tickets are non-refundable unless the walk or tour is cancelled by the organiser.
- All refunds will be made by cheque for cash and cheque payments and by card for debit or credit card payments.
- North Down Tourism reserve the right to amend or cancel an event. All walks and tours may be subject to change.
- All participants will be contacted by phone or email, where possible, to advise of any cancellation.
- Participants must be able to produce their ticket on request.

For further information please contact:

Bangor Tourist Information Centre
34 Quay Street
Bangor
BT20 5ED
T: 028 9182 6846
E: tic@northdown.gov.uk
www.northdowntourism.com

Open hours:

Jan-April & Sept-Dec

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9am-5pm

Wed 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun

Closed

May-Aug

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9am-5pm

Wed 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm

Clothing / Footwear

Please take note of the length of tours and the terrain they cover to ensure you prepare accordingly. For coastal walks warm clothing is advisable.

Access

Most walks and tours are suitable for all with a basic fitness level. Some however may cover some uneven ground or steep hills and inclines which would cause a problem for those with mobility issues. If you have any specific needs or may require assistance please contact staff at Bangor Tourist Information Centre,
T: 028 9127 0069
E: tic@northdown.gov.uk
to see if your needs can be facilitated.

All information is correct at time of going to print.

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Bangor Tourist Information Centre

34 Quay Street, Bangor, Co. Down
Northern Ireland BT20 5ED

Bangor's Tourist Information Centre is located in the 17th Century Tower House overlooking Northern Ireland's largest Marina. It is a well-preserved reminder of Bangor's seafaring history and, as the oldest building in Ireland in continuous public use, has served as a family home, a Customs House and Hot Sea Water Baths. Our well-trained and friendly staff look forward to dealing with any enquiries you may have.



Visitor Information

For information and bookings contact: **Bangor Tourist Information Centre**
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9127 0069 Fax: +44 (0) 28 9127 4466
E-mail: tic@northdown.gov.uk Website: www.northdowntourism.com

