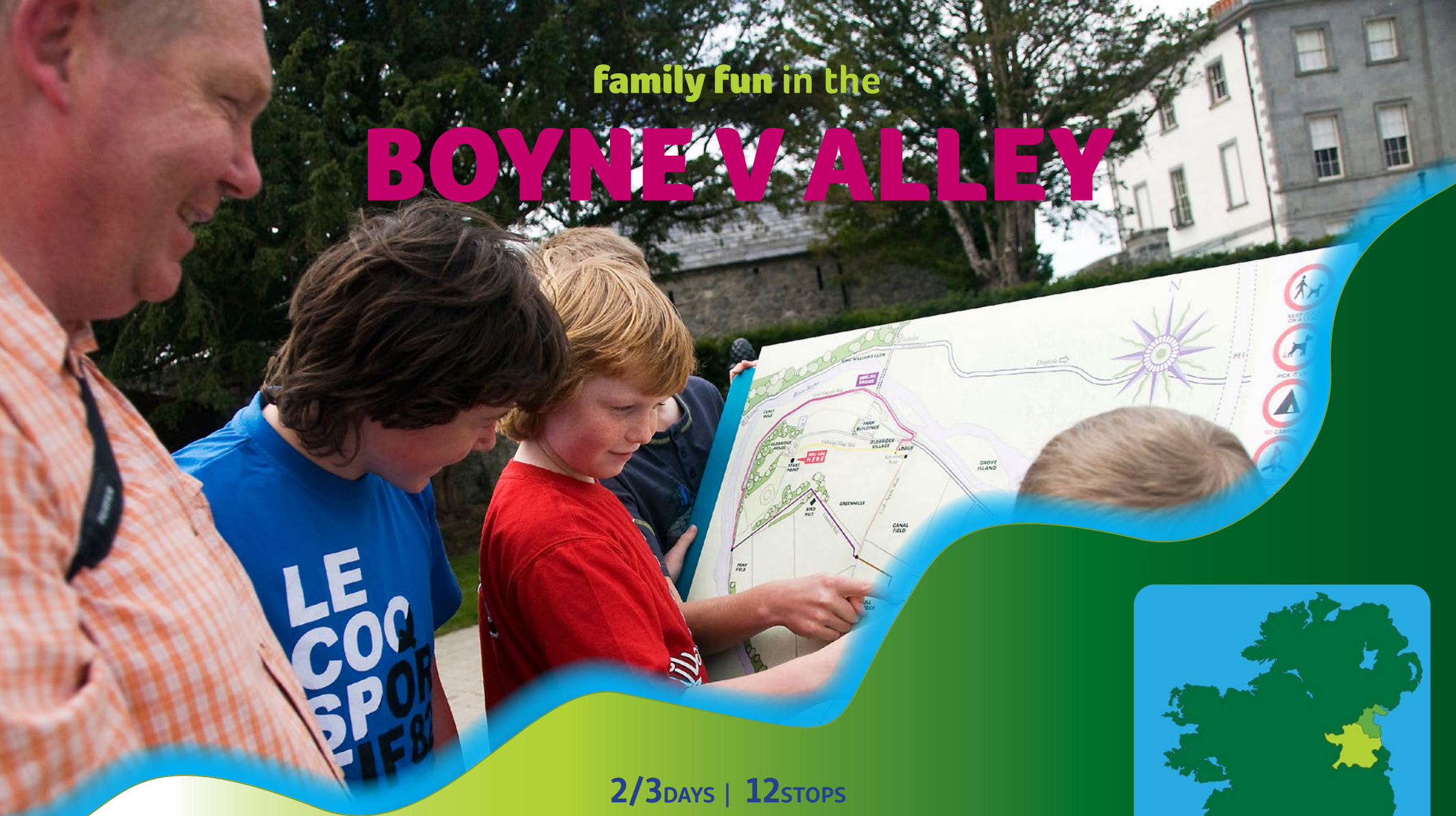


family fun in the **BOYNE VALLEY**



2/3DAYS | 12STOPS

Located just 30 minutes north of Dublin, the Boyne Valley sits at the very **heart of Ireland's Ancient East**. Rich in **megalithic tombs and ancient royal sites**, this is a place **steeped in the myth & legends** of mighty kings and brave warriors. One of the most beautiful areas in Ireland, there are also plenty of opportunities for **fun-filled family adventures in the outdoors!**





1. KEY

1. Brú na Bóinne
2. Boyne Boats
3. Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre
4. Irish Military War Museum
5. Trim Castle
6. Navan Adventure Cntr
7. The Zone
8. Boyne Valley Activities
9. Tayto Park
10. Funtasia, Drogheda
11. WhiteRiver Carting
12. Bettystown/ Laytown Beaches
13. Loughcrew Gardens Fairy Trail

DAY 1

What better place to start your Boyne Valley adventure than at the [UNESCO World Heritage Site at Brú na Bóinne](#) - one of the world's most important prehistoric landscapes. Brú na Bóinne is dominated by the three well-known and celebrated passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth.

Built some 5,000 years ago, the tombs are older than both Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids! Both Newgrange and Knowth are accessible from the visitor centre at Brú na Bóinne (*to access the chamber at Newgrange, prebooking is essential*).

The new, state of the art, **immersive visitor experience** transports visitors back 5,000 years to the construction of the monuments, it explores the seasonal nature of Stone Age

society, the significance of the solar cycle, and the tomb-building process.

You can enjoy lunch at Brú na Bóinne before taking to the river itself in the afternoon with the hugely popular [Boyne Boats](#). Here you will paddle in the handcrafted, traditional Kerry Naomhóg currachs which have starred in the hit TV show, Game of Thrones and be guided through 5,000 years of history in the heart of **Ireland's Ancient East**. Young and old can paddle together as they hear about the bloody battles that shaped Ireland and the rich tapestry of characters that lived and died here.

Boyne Boats is conveniently located next to the site of the [Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre](#) so after your paddle along the Boyne you can find out more about **one of the most significant events in Irish and English history**.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought between the Protestant King William III and the Catholic King James II in 1690 and is brought to life in the visitor centre with a **laser battle site model**, an audio visual film, real and replica weaponry and **interactive guided tours**.

The visitor centre is located in the restored **18th century Oldbridge House** complete with **Victorian gardens**, tea-rooms and a



host of fascinating **battle-site walks**. Alternatively head *15 minutes north* to the Irish Military War Museum & Family Park which offers a hands-on, **interactive museum experience** which includes handling original weapons, visiting a replica **World War I trench** and a **blank-firing weapons display**. Other on-site activities include a large **inflatable obstacle course** and combat archery for some high octane fun!

DAY 2

Start the day at [Trim Castle](#), the largest, best-preserved and most impressive Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. It was built over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son, as the home of the Lordship of Meath. The castle may



look familiar to many visitors as Mel Gibson's film, **Braveheart** was filmed here in the 1990s! In Medieval times, this massive, twenty-sided tower stood like an imposing and powerful stone symbol of Norman strength at the edge of the Pale. Tours are available daily during the summer and at weekends in the winter.

Don't forget to visit [Trim Visitor Centre](#) beside the castle, located in the historic town hall building, it houses the **Medieval Armoury Tour**, Trim Castle Tours in winter, tourist information and a great gift shop.

The children can let off some steam in the afternoon with a dizzying array of activities such as **kayaking, white-water rafting, archery** or a **medieval river tour** with [Boyne](#)

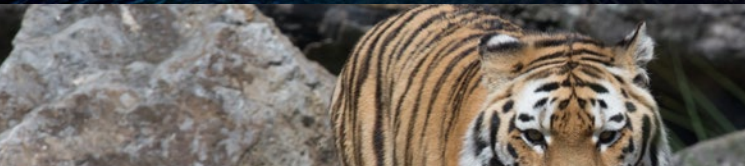


[Valley Activities](#), also located in Trim and now part of the new [Boyne Blueway](#).

Alternatively, [Navan Adventure Centre](#), located *15 minutes north* of Trim, is open all day, every day, from 9.30am until dusk and has a great **Family Activity Package** which includes an **inflatables area, mini-golf, pedal go-karting, football-golf and ski-walking**. The Zone, also located in Navan, offers bowling, karting, laser-tag, visceral reality games and a laser maze!

DAY 3

A family adventure in the Boyne Valley wouldn't be complete without a trip to the



Tayto Theme Park situated just north of Ashbourne. It's worth setting aside a whole day to really explore all that this **fantastic 22 hectare park** has to offer. All age groups and interests are catered for, from the thrill-seekers looking for an adrenalin rush to younger guests who like to take things a little bit slower!

From the hair-raising rides of the **Adventure Zone** to the more laid-back experiences of the Eagles Nest, to the fantastic array of **exotic and farm animals** that can be visited in the zoo or the life-like animatronics at **Dinosaurs Alive**, everyone is sure to find something

that thrills and enthrals at Tayto Park! Otherwise, head to the 30,000 square-foot **Funtasia Water Park** located in Drogheda, where you'll find over 200 water-based activities for all to enjoy, including **super slides, themed play areas, toddlers splash and an adult-only jacuzzi**. Other attractions include **bowling alleys, video game arcades, zipline, crazy golf and a prince and princess palace** to name but a few!

For the thrill seekers and petrol-heads among you, head to **WhiteRiver Karting**, an exciting outdoor kart racing venue located just 8

minutes from Drogheda. For the smallies and tweenies, head to the wonderful **Loughcrew House & Gardens Fairy Trail** located just outside Oldcastle, Co. Meath where they'll find a charming and interactive guided-trail through a magical garden full of magic doors, fairy houses and wishing trees.

Don't forget that when the sun shines in Ireland there's no better place to be than at the beach! **Bettystown/ Laytown 5km beach** and **Baltray Strand** are two of the most scenic beach fronts in the country and the perfect place to enjoy some family fun on a summer's day!