



Slane Castle



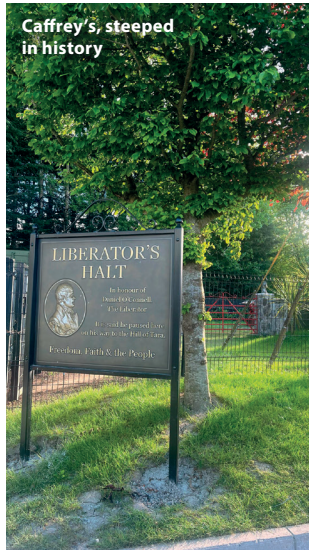
Tractor life at Newgrange Farm



Fun on the farm at Newgrange Farm



Caffrey's of Batterstown



Caffrey's, steeped in history



Stonewall Cafe

Where we went...

Newgrange Farm, Slane

Just 15 minutes away from Slane, Newgrange Farm is one of Ireland's first open farms. It is 30 minutes from Dublin with easy access from the motorway. My son came here last year on his school tour, so he was very excited to return. This place has it all; from horses to Highland cows, sheep, pigs, puppies, bunnies, chickens, donkeys and goats. The little ones can feed the eager lambs a bottle of milk and hold a puppy and baby chick, which is always a highlight. Animals aside, there's a huge sand pit and water area with loads of buckets, shovels and toy trucks for kids to play with, as well as toy ride-on tractors and a haystack maze, so regardless of the weather, you could easily pass a day here. Go into the little coffee shop afterwards for a snack, cake and cup of coffee at a very reasonable price. A family of five ticket is €49.50, see more at newgrangefarm.com

Slane Castle Viking Festival, Slane

This festival is a brilliant day out for adults and families and is growing bigger every year. Your family ticket includes two children and carparking, making it excellent value for a full day's entertainment. Over 500 reenactors come to meet at the famous location, exchange stories and skills, sell their goods, fight on the battlefield and sail long ships on the River Boyne in the shadow of the stunning Slane Castle. You can try archery, meet wolfhounds and birds of prey. For kids, there's a Viking treasure hunt and fun historic games. The festival is a lovely excuse to get onto the grounds of Slane Castle and see it in all its glory. See more about events here at slanecastle.ie



Curry for brunch at Stonewall Cafe, Trim



Ice cream delights at The Snailbox

Where we ate....

The Snailbox, Ashbourne

This restaurant is known for its baseball cap collection hanging from the ceiling. The collection was started by a loyal customer known as "Smythy." One night he left his cap behind and the staff hung it on the ceiling... thus the cap collection began. They now have the largest display of baseball caps in Europe – currently over 7,000! In exchange for your baseball cap, they will give you one of their green Snailbox hats to bring home. Even while we were eating, an American tourist handed over their Ohio hat for a Snailbox one, getting a photo in the process. The food is as good as the atmosphere; offering a well-priced and varied menu. We went for the chowder, burger and beef salad and chicken for the kids – there was plenty of food and the kids menu included a very generous ice cream sundae with plenty of toppings. snailbox.ie

Caffrey's of Batterstown, Rathregan

Another historic spot along the route – Caffrey's, located in the pretty village of Batterstown. The building dates back to 1640 and now houses a family-run pub. Caffrey's has witnessed the tales of the ages, from the Duke of Wellington to Daniel O'Connell's oratory. The walls are adorned with antique and historical bric-a-brac and owner Gerry O'Malley proudly showed us around to point out pieces of historic significance, including a piece of stone above the door, dated 1640. The exceptionally nice staff serve up excellent gastro pub style food. In the summer you can sit out in their terraced area and in the colder months, try and bag yourself a coveted spot beside the open fire. caffreysbatterstown.ie

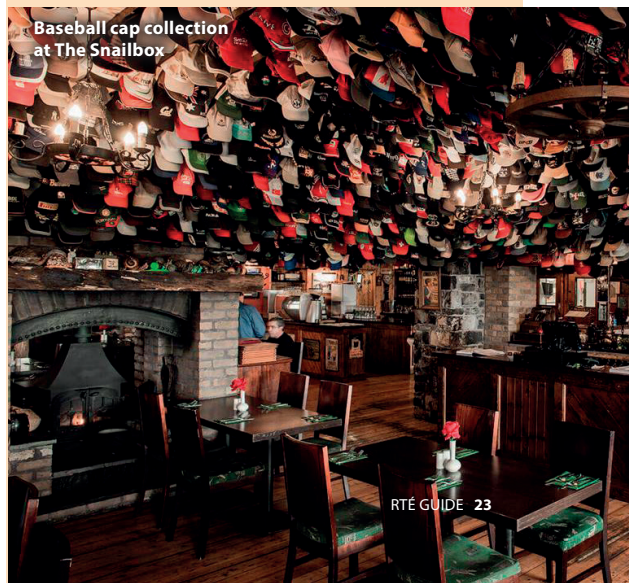
Stonewall Café, Trim

As we walked the streets of Trim from our parking spot to this café, I passed a number of people with their coffee cups, so I knew it had to be good. That, and the snoop I had on their very inviting Instagram page. Located right across the road from the well-preserved Trim Castle, this café opened in 2024 and soon became a local hot spot. Offering a delicious breakfast menu, which included traditional pancakes, healthy options like açai bowls, but also for someone like me who can't eat eggs, a curry on the menu was a welcomed surprise and delicious too. Café walk-in only. Breakfast served till 11am with indoor and outdoor seating or take away. [@stonewall_coffee](https://www.instagram.com/stonewall_coffee) on Instagram

For more information on the Boyne Valley attractions, accommodation and dining options, go to discoverboynevalley.ie



Games at the Viking Festival, Slane Castle



Baseball cap collection at The Snailbox