

City Guide – Clondalkin

Clondalkin lies on the banks of the River Camac 10km west of Dublin. Originally a monastic settlement it is now a bustling town with a reputation for digital enterprise thanks to good infrastructure and transport links. In 2014 it became Ireland's 51st Fairtrade Town and its varied historical, sporting and cultural attractions make it an ideal base for exploring County Dublin.

Architecture in Clondalkin

The key attraction in Clondalkin Village is an 8th century round tower with a pointy cap. At 25m tall it is visible from all over town and was originally a bell tower to protect the relics of the monastery. Opposite lie the ruins of a medieval church, a graveyard and pretty Alms Houses, which were formerly a schoolhouse.

Other sites of architectural importance are Clondalkin Library, a redbrick and granite building, St Brigid's Holy Well and Tully's Castle, a 16th century tower house nicknamed the 'Castle of Clondalkin'.

Walks in Clondalkin

Clondalkin is easy to explore on foot and a downloadable Walking Tour is available online. A short walk from The Mill Shopping Centre in the village takes in the round tower, several churches, Tully's Castle, St Brigid's Holy Well, the Presentation Convent and the Camac River. Orchard Lane is home to the Irish Cultural Centre and worth a visit to see the ancient monastic street layout.

For longer nature walks visit Corkagh Park in South Clondalkin, a 120-hectare park, which opened to the public in 1986. It has fishing lakes, a golf course and wetland area and is home to the award-winning Camac Valley Tourist Camping and Caravanning Park.

Shopping in Clondalkin

Clondalkin Village has a good mix of independent shops and The Mill Shopping Centre is a one-stop shop on the site of the former Paper Mill. The Liffey Valley Shopping Centre is a short drive away, a top retail destination with over 75 shops under one roof.

Culture in Clondalkin

Clondalkin has a high number of Irish speakers, all Irish primary schools and hopes to be designated Ireland's newest Gaeltacht area due to changing criteria that favour language skills over location. The Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural Centre is a good starting point for information on the area and offers Irish language and music classes for children and adults.

Sport in Clondalkin

Roundtowers GAA Club is one of the largest sports clubs in Dublin with over 38 teams offering a range of activities including Gaelic football, Hurling, Ladies Football and Camogie. There are also clubs for rugby, basketball and baseball and Corkagh Park is home to the Irish national baseball team.

Restaurants in Clondalkin

Clondalkin Village has a good mix of local cafes, pubs and restaurants serving international cuisine. The waterfront bars are ideal for a quick snack and watching live sport on TV. Liffey Valley Shopping Centre has outdoor eating areas.

With its historic attractions, pretty riverside walks, lively pubs and good transport links Clondalkin is a great place to immerse yourself in the roots of Irish culture and language.