



# KYLEMORE ABB<sup>®</sup>EY

**YOUR GUIDE TO OUR ESTATE**

**DISCOVER 1,000 ACRES OF BEAUTY, SERENITY, & HOSPITALITY**



*Peace & Beauty | Food & Drink | Craft & Design*









**WWW.KYLEMOREABBEY.COM**

# Discover the Kylemore Estate

A 1,000 acre oasis in the heart of Connemara...



## SEE & DO

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Restaurant and Gift Shop          |  Picnic Areas                           |
| 2 Kylemore Abbey Visitor Experience |  Pigsty                                 |
| 3 The Gothic Church                 |  The Boathouse                          |
| 4 The Henry Mausoleum               |  Pony Paddock                           |
| 5 The Garden Tea House              |  Waterfall                              |
| 6 The Victorian Walled Garden       |  Wild Play Area                         |
| 7 Monastic Church                   |  Giants Wishing Stone                   |
|                                     |  University of Notre Dame Global Centre |

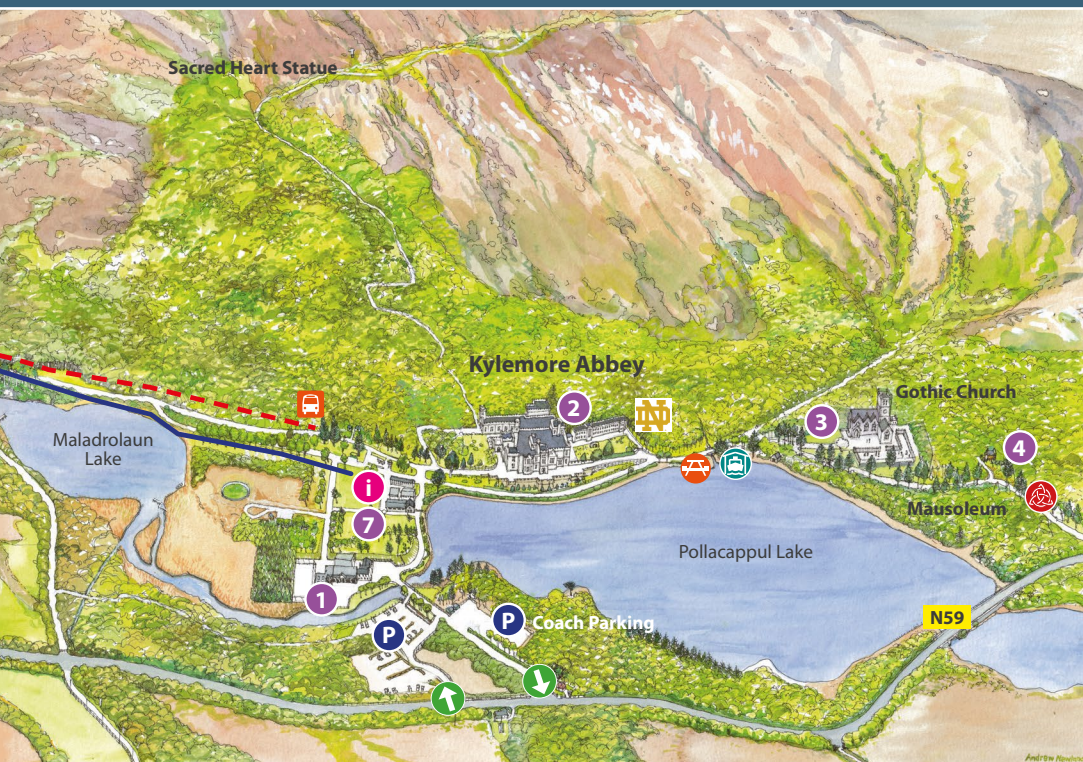
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

e: [bookings@kylemoreabbey.com](mailto:bookings@kylemoreabbey.com) t: +353 (0) 95 52001 [www.kylemoreabbey.com](http://www.kylemoreabbey.com)







# \* Download our Free Visitor App









Scan Here



## WALKING TRAILS

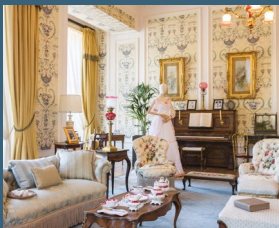
-  Walk to Garden
-  Short Walk to Tea House
-  Pony Trail
-  Dawros River walk
-  Horse Chestnut Loop
-  Flora and fauna walk

## INFORMATION

-  Visitor Centre
-  Entrance
-  Exit
-  Parking
-  Complimentary Shuttle Bus
-  Shuttle Route

\* LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FREE VISITOR APP ON PAGE 11

# So much to discover...



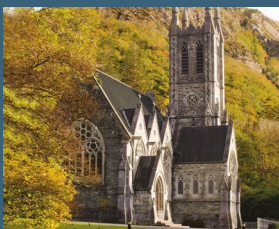
## Kylemore Abbey Visitor Experience

Visit the Abbey, enjoy our wonderful *From Generation to Generation* experience and learn all about the history of this fascinating building. Modern interpretation and beautifully restored period rooms combine to create a unique and enchanting weaving of the stories of the Henry family, the Duke and Duchess of Manchester and the Benedictine nuns of Kylemore.



## The Benedictine nuns

Kylemore Abbey is home to a community of Benedictine nuns since 1920. Originally founded in Ypres, Belgium in 1665, the community live, pray, and work on the estate following the monastic rule of Saint Benedict and the principles of PAX (peace) and 'ora et labora' (pray and work). Join them for daily Mass in the Monastic Church (12:15pm weekdays, 11:30am Sundays) and Vespers (Mondays 5pm, Tues-Sun 6pm).



## Gothic Church

This 'Miniature Cathedral' in neo-Gothic style was built by Mitchell Henry in memory of his wife Margaret. The Church is magnificently restored as a place of great beauty and spirituality. You are invited to relax, reflect, absorb the peaceful atmosphere, and say a prayer or light a candle if you choose. Watch out for choral and music performances on our events page at [kylemoreabbey.com](http://kylemoreabbey.com).



## Garden Tea House

After exploring our extensive woodland and lakeshore walks, nothing could be nicer than to relax and enjoy tea and cake in the lovely surroundings of the Garden Tea House. Light lunches such as open sandwiches, soups and salads also served.

*Open Easter to October, food offering may vary throughout the year.*



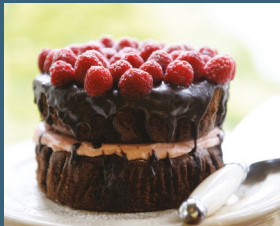
## Mausoleum

Margaret & Mitchell Henry now rest together in the Mausoleum that stands near the Gothic Church. Mitchell died in England at the great age of 85 years, by this time bereft of his fortune, but his wish to rejoin Margaret in their beloved Kylemore was granted.



## Trails and Tales

This season see more of the beautiful Kylemore Estate than ever before. Get your walking shoes on and explore our Dawros River, Horse Chestnut Loop and Flora, Fauna & Folklore Trail. Bring a friend and a picnic or reward yourself with a well deserved tea and cake in the Garden Teahouse at the end of the trail. Discover local legends and stories, magnificent trees and the wonder of nature!



### Kylemore Kitchen and Kylemore Craft & Design

Enjoy locally sourced, freshly made, authentic Irish dishes. From a morning tea and scone to healthy lunches or the perfect afternoon coffee and cake. Home-baking is our speciality! Choose the perfect gift or memento of your visit in our beautiful Kylemore Gift Shop. Gifts unique to Kylemore include our Kylemore Abbey jams and preserves, fuchsia pottery range, chocolate, soaps and gifts handmade by the Benedictine nuns.



### Victorian Walled Garden

Discover a 6 acre garden oasis where ordered flower and vegetable beds are arranged against the backdrop of the wild Connemara mountains. Winner of the Europa Nostra Award, enjoy the magnificent Victorian Walled Garden, learn about its creation in the late 1800's and the colossal restoration project led by the Benedictine Nuns to reclaim the stunning garden.

*Private Garden Tours available to pre-book. Public tours June, July and August will be advertised onsite.*



### Connemara Ponies

Drop by the Pony Paddock and meet our beautiful herd of pure bred Connemara Ponies. This charming breed are world renowned for their versatility and gentle nature. Learn all about them and score the perfect photo opportunity at feeding time, as advertised on site.



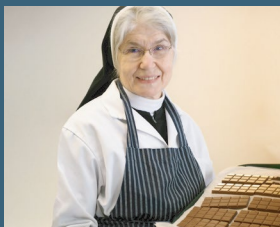
### Head Gardener's House, Bothy & Glass Houses

Visit the restored garden buildings and see how the head gardener and garden boys lived. Visit the Bothy and Toolshed and step back in time with a multimedia experience filled with curiosity boxes and stunning archive photography flipping back through memories and recollections giving a glimpse into the lives that once called the Victorian Walled Garden home. Stop by the Vinery where bananas and grapes once grew in the Glass houses in the 1890s.



### Family Fun

Kylemore is magical for families! Don't miss our Wild Play Area where the fairies and elves hang out, visit our Kune Kune pigs at their sty and make a wish at the Giants Ironing Stone! Families can take part in our self-guiding History Hunter tour and there's plenty of exploring to do on our extended woodland and lakeshore walks.



### Chocolate Kitchen

The Chocolate Kitchen is where our wonderful Kylemore Abbey Chocolates are handmade by the Benedictine nuns. Peek in the window and you might spot Sr Genevieve and her team of helpers packing up chocolates before they make the short journey to the Kylemore Gift Shop, no air miles involved!

# Guide to the Abbey Visitor Experience

## *From Generation to Generation... The Story of Kylemore Abbey*

### Entrance

Entering under the granite arch you are following in the footsteps of many generations and beginning your journey of discovery of *Kylemore Abbey From Generation to Generation...* Note the old ash pit to your left and the folly windows on the outer walls both exposed during recent renovations.

#### 1 Welcome Room

Welcome to Kylemore Abbey. This room was once the outer kitchen and is where meals were prepared for the Henry family, the Duke and Duchess of Manchester and in later years the nuns and schoolgirls. The old kitchen and butter making tables were used for many years in the Kylemore farmhouse. Here we begin to learn about the history and origins of Kylemore Abbey. The audio visual displays tell the story of Kylemore through the years

#### 2 The Benedictine Order (From Ypres to Connemara)

The Benedictine nuns who live at Kylemore today arrived here in 1920. Their ancient Abbey in Ypres, Belgium was destroyed in the early months of WW1. Learn about the fascinating history and ethos of the order and their escape from war-torn Europe. Exhibits include several precious artefacts connected with the order.

#### 3 The Benedictine Nuns

This room which in earlier years was a servants' hall and in later years the nuns' refectory tells the story of the Benedictine nuns at Kylemore, their work and achievements. Learn about the life of the nuns, Kylemore Abbey Girls' School, the Big Fire, the development of the Kylemore Estate and the role of the nuns at Kylemore today.

#### 4 Building Kylemore Castle and Estate

Enter the former library and study, meet Mitchell and Margaret Henry and learn about how they created their fairytale castle in the wild Connemara Countryside. Talking portraits bring this most romantic couple to life and explain about how their lives were inspired by their love of Ireland and each other.

#### 5 Discover a beautiful 3d model of the Kylemore estate in the 1800s and learn more about Mitchell Henry, his beautiful estate and his political career.

#### 6 The Victorian WC

Take a peek into an original Victorian WC.

#### 7 Life and Leisure on the Estate

Passing into the inner hall you will see the original parquet flooring, Jacobean oak panelling on the walls, a handsome oak staircase and looking up you will see an example of the fine plasterwork that once graced the ceilings throughout the Castle. Learn about how the Henry family enjoyed a life of shooting and fishing and the great outdoors on their beautiful country estate.

#### 8 Margaret Henry: The Drawing Room

Visit the beautiful Drawing Room, once the favourite room of Margaret Henry, and the premiere room for entertaining and socialising. This very feminine room was where the ladies 'withdrew' to after dinner and where many ladylike pastimes such as reading, writing and needlework were enjoyed. Items of interest include the magnificent Carrera marble fireplace, a replica of Margaret's stunning pink ball dress as seen in her portrait just inside the door and the ladies writing bureau and needlework table.

#### 9 The Henry Family

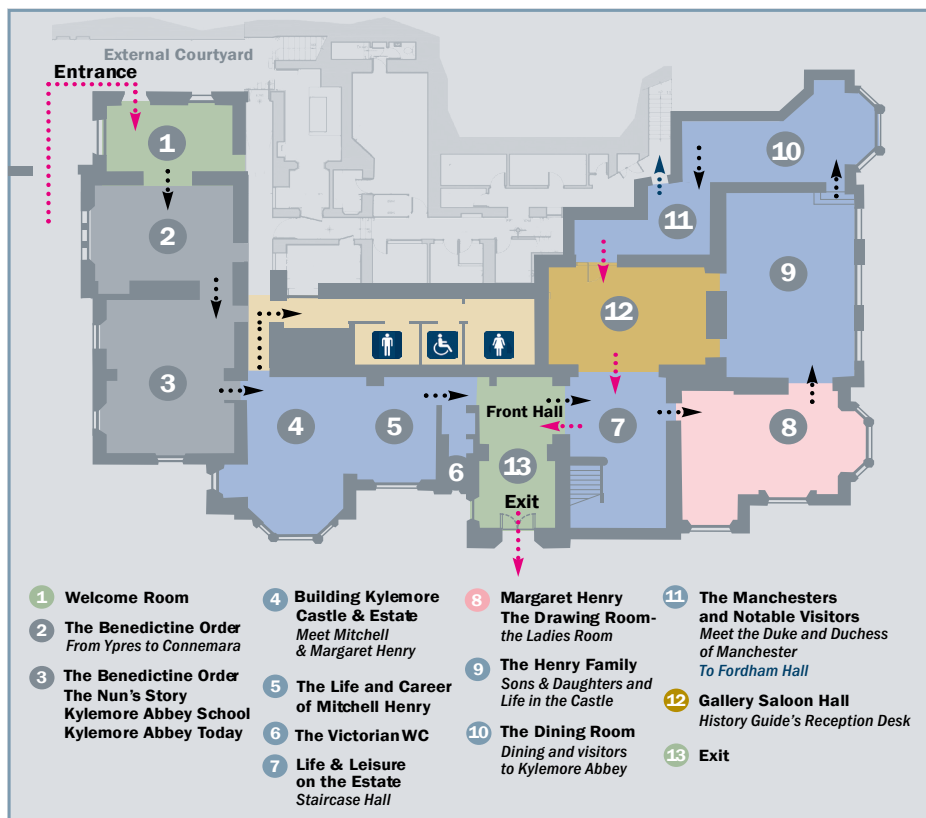
This impressive room was once divided in two by Gothic arches and comprised a Morning Room and Breakfast Room, but was later opened up by the Duchess to create this larger space for entertaining. During the school years it was a classroom and study hall. Today it is where you will learn more about the lives of the Henry family and meet Geraldine, Florence, Alexander and Lorenzo. Learn about the fascinating lives of these characters who started life in this most luxurious home but were by no means immune to the ups and downs of life. Each of them made their way in the world in their own individual and unique styles.

#### 10 The Dining Room

The beautiful Dining Room features a magnificent black marble fireplace and was the scene for many sumptuous meals and evenings of entertainment. On the opposite wall is a wide Gothic arched Buffet Recess. The door to the left once led to the Head Butler's Pantry and the door on the right led out to the luxurious Turkish bath. Our menu board features dishes typical of an upper-class Victorian table and the plates are printed with the names of some of the guests who visited over the years.

## Complimentary History Talks and Tours

Please enquire with our hosts or guides about History Talks in the Abbey. Our History Guides are on hand to answer your questions whether regarding history or local information they will be happy to help.



**11 The Manchesters and Notable Visitors**  
Meet the Duke and Duchess of Manchester who bought the Castle in 1903 and take a few moments to browse the gallery of visitors who dined at Kylemore over the years. Heads of state, royalty and cultural figures are amongst those who have been made welcome here  
**Fordham Hall : Exhibition and event space.** (Former chapel and originally the ballroom).

**12 The Gallery Hall Saloon**  
Descending the steps into the Gallery Saloon Hall you will enter the era of the Duke and Duchess of Manchester who lived here between 1903 and 1913. The oak interiors in

this part of the building date to this era. The Duke and Duchess were a glamorous couple who helped herald in the new and exciting Edwardian era at Kylemore and who left a lasting impression on the building. This area was used for receptions and musical recitals and during the school years it was where the school plays were performed. Look up to one of three beautiful glass ceilings which cleverly allow light to flood into the building.

**13 Exit**  
As you exit you will see a statue of Saint Benedict of Nursia, the 5th century founding father of the Benedictine order who offers his blessing to all who visit Kylemore Abbey today.



# KYLEMORE ABBEY®

## Victorian Walled Garden

Winner of the Europa Nostra Award 2001



One of the few formal Walled Gardens cultivated in an Irish bog, Kylemore's Victorian Walled Garden uniquely uses plants and flowers that were introduced to Ireland before 1901. The Garden can be reached through woodland walks or by our dedicated shuttle bus which departs from behind the Visitor Centre every 15 minutes.

In keeping with the style of the day, an extensive walled garden was constructed at the same time as the Castle. The barren Connemara boglands to the west of the Castle were transformed into what was recognised at the time as Ireland's most impressive walled garden.

The 6-acre garden contained a 21 glasshouse complex, pleasure and Kitchen Gardens, Head Gardener's House, Workers' Bothy and Lime Kiln. At this time hundreds of thousands of exotic and native trees were planted throughout the demesne. A stream divides the enclosed section of the Garden into two distinct areas; the Kitchen Garden and Flower Garden.

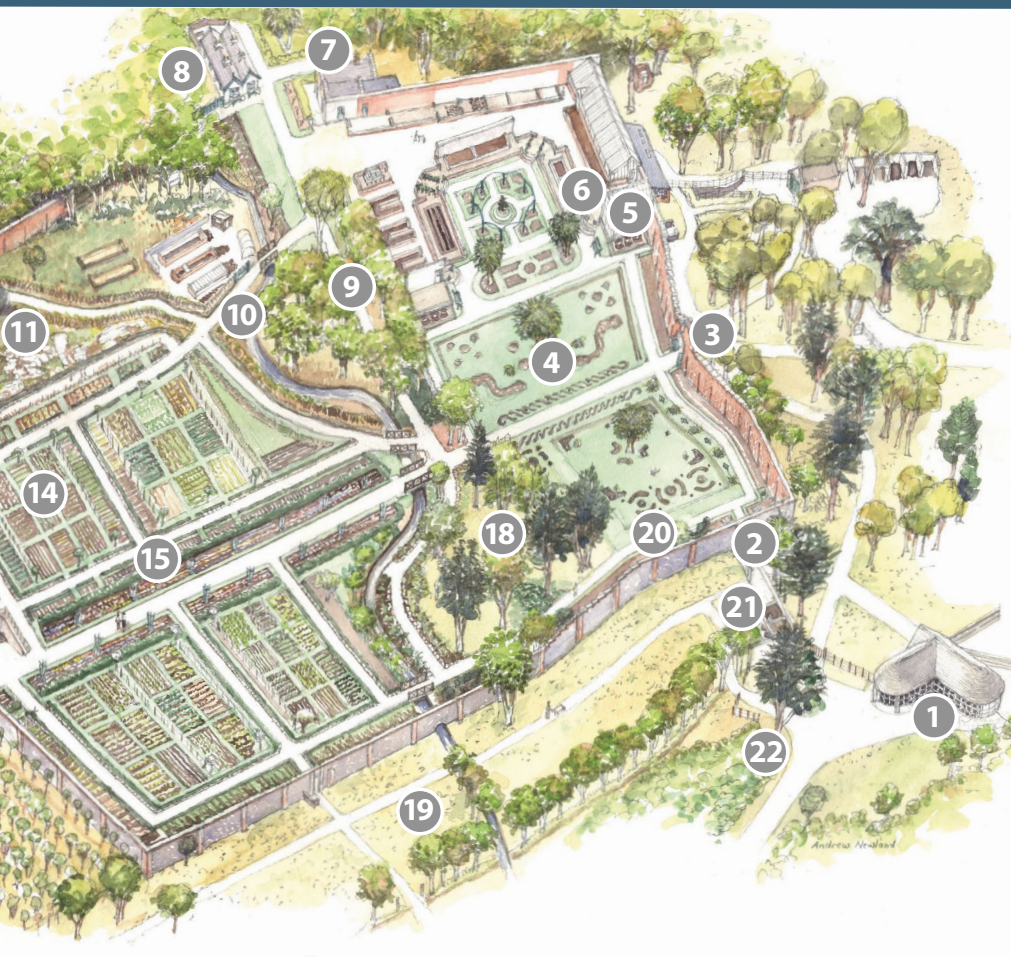
The Garden was built on a south slope at the foot of Dúchruach mountain and was reputed to be a 'regular sun trap'. The site was carefully chosen for its awe inspiring and dramatic setting, backing onto the mountain and facing Diamond Hill. This was the warmest and brightest spot on the estate. The natural fall of the land and underlying gravel allowed for drainage and a mountain stream provided water.

Crowning the northern slope were 21 glasshouses, which housed exotic fruits such as bananas, melons, grapes, figs and other fruits. The glasshouses were heated by 3 boilers, one of which doubled as a limekiln, and a complex system of hot water pipes 1,524 metres (5,000 feet) in extent. Two of the glasshouses have been restored, along with the Head Gardener's House and workman's Bothy.

## Map of Victorian Walled Garden



*Follow what's happening in the garden throughout the year by logging onto our Head Gardener's monthly online diary. Log onto [www.kylemoreabbey.com](http://www.kylemoreabbey.com) for details.*

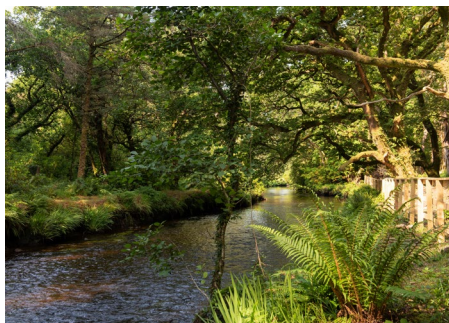


## Map Legend:

- |                         |                          |                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tea House            | 8. Head Gardener's House | 16. Cut Flowers      |
| 2. Garden Entrance      | 9. Woodland              | 17. Oak Plantation   |
| 3. Main Gate            | 10. Stream               | 18. Fernery          |
| 4. Formal Flower Garden | 11. Rockery              | 19. Wild Garden Walk |
| 5. Lime Kiln            | 12. Nuttury              | 20. Shrub Border     |
| 6. Glasshouses          | 13. Herb Garden          | 21. Pigsty           |
| 7. Bothy                | 14. Kitchen Garden       | 22. Wild Play Area   |
|                         | 15. Herbaceous Border    |                      |

## Kylemore Abbey Trails and Tales

Kylemore's 1,000 acre estate is traversed with a number of beautiful woodland, lakeshore and riverside walks. Follow old paths as they take you through the less seen parts of the estate. Tree Trails, helpful signage, and interesting facts for kids on route will keep the whole family entertained as you discover the fascinating ecology and history of Kylemore and the wider Connemara region. All walks and trails are included in your ticket. Good footwear is recommended, walks and trails vary in difficulty please see the individual signage for each trail.



### Dawros River Walk



Flowing from Kylemore Lough to the Atlantic Ocean, three viewing points along the Dawros river invite visitors to enjoy its gentle flow, engage in local stories, and learn about the ecosystem of the river, surrounding fields and valleys at three separate stopping points:

- Racecourse Panorama
- Paidín Mórs Bridge
- Salmon Run

1km/30min walk - Gravel path.



### Horse Chestnut Loop



Weave through a meandering horseshoe shaped tunnel, past the Pony Paddock to find yourself at an impressive Horsechestnut Tree. Learn about how the seasons change the woodland and enjoy your own woodland adventure.

200m/5min walk - Uneven gravel path.

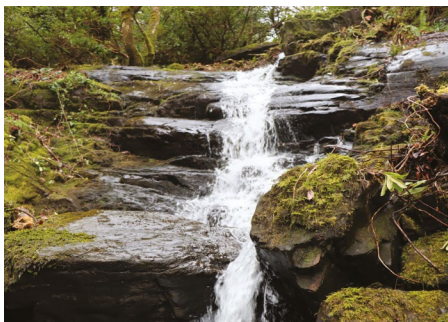


### Flora, Fauna & Folklore Trail



The 1km trail takes the visitor to a previously unseen part of Kylemore on a meandering path through fields, meadows, and woodlands, offering spectacular views across the Twelve Bens and shares the folklore behind some of Irelands most recognisable wildflowers and wildlife.

1km/30mins Walk - Gravel path - Good footwear required.



### The Sruffaunduff Waterfall



Enjoy the spectacular view of one of Kylemore's largest waterfalls. After years of being covered in growth, the recently uncovered waterfall is a spectacular site, particularly after a strong West of Ireland rain shower, and was a key attraction for Mitchell Henry and his Victorian contemporaries.

## The Kylemore Trust

Did you know that Kylemore Abbey is a non-profit organisation and a registered charity in Ireland (CHY 18550 / RCN 20071394Y). All funds generated are used to advance its dual mission of preserving the heritage and natural beauty of Kylemore and supporting the monastic way of life. Kylemore's current fundraising priority is the construction of a new Benedictine Monastery – the first of its kind in Ireland for 400 years. To learn more about this – and how you can help – please visit [trust.kylemoreabbey.com](http://trust.kylemoreabbey.com)

*Simply scan to learn more*



### Tree Trail

A trail that takes in much of the estate and guides you through 24 different species of tree which are at home in the Kylemore estate. This self-guided tour teaches visitors about each of the trees, their origins, defining features, and modern uses. Tree trail follows the main avenues throughout the estate. Paved and gravel paths.



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**Please use the brochure recycling boxes or hand your brochure into the counter if you choose not to take it with you. Thank you!**



### Leaders of Sustainable Tourism

Did you know that Kylemore Abbey is working towards becoming a national leader of sustainable tourism? As well as the gradual electrification of our vehicle fleet, the 200 native Irish trees that we plant every year, and using recycled or sustainable products where possible, a full biodiversity plan is prepared with the help of the National University of Ireland, Galway, to ensure the safeguarding and development of Kylemore's incredible ecosystem. How can you help? Why not follow the "Leave No Trace" principles and make sure that all rubbish is properly disposed of, be mindful where you walk, and instead of putting this leaflet in the bin, you can leave it in one of our collection boxes for another visitor to be guided through the Kylemore Estate.



## Kylemore Produce

For decades, Kylemore Abbey has been synonymous with food and crafts handmade with care. Enjoy these unique gifts including soaps and chocolate handmade by the Benedictine Community exclusively in the Kylemore Abbey Craft & Design Shop and on [kylemoreabbey.com](http://kylemoreabbey.com)

## Wholesome Favourites from the Kylemore Kitchen

No trip to Kylemore Abbey is complete without stopping into the Kylemore Kitchen for some delicious home-cooking and baking. From warming stews, fresh seasonal salads, to Kylemore's legendary Apple Pie, taste authentic west of Ireland produce served in new and traditional ways.



## Events

Walks, talks, Concerts, family fun workshops, and so much more. Never miss out on Kylemore's exciting schedule as well as behind the scenes content, great offers, and early access to new products and experiences when you sign up to Kylemore Abbey's Newsletter.



Simply scan and sign up now



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



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