

Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden

SCHOOL TOUR PROGRAMME

School Tour Programme

Journey through stunning scenery to arrive at Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden - the perfect destination for your school tour. With much to offer we can cater for your school tour requirements.

The abbey and estate is steeped in history with tales of romance, tragedy and royal visits. There are amazing examples of innovative architectural and engineering initiatives such as hydro-electrical generators, bridge and causeway design, fire hydrant systems, dynamite explosions and sophisticated heating systems. Home to the Benedictine Nuns since 1920, it has been renowned as a place of spirituality and education.

The 6 acre Victorian walled garden is a magical place to explore. The garden is unique in that it only grows plants and vegetables which grew in Victorian times. Bananas and grapes are grown in the restored glass houses, just as they did back in the 1870's! There are nature trails and newly opened woodland walks ready to be explored.

We have devised three school tour programmes to choose from and can cater for some special requests.

Green Energy, Sustainability Tour

Following on from the success of our event which we ran in conjunction with Engineer's Week we have developed our Green Energy, Sustainability Tour. Earn a green flag for your school by taking part. The tour promises to be educational, interactive and most of all fun!

Example of Tour Outline

10:30am - Arrive at Kylemore. Introduction to Kylemore Abbey.

10:45am - Small Break – Light refreshment break. Complimentary tea and scones for teachers and assistants.

11.00am - Tour of the Abbey with an emphasis on the architectural and engineering challenges of building a castle in the wilderness of Connemara.

11:30am - Woodland walk to the Victorian Walled Garden. Meet one of the Gardeners.

12:00 - Tour of the magical garden. See how the garden boys lived in the restored Bothy and compare to the luxury of the restored Head Gardener's house. Both are filled with everyday items of the era. See how bananas, melons and peaches were grown by harnessing heat from large lime kilns. Identify the variety of vegetables growing. Explore the site where dynamite was first used in the west of Ireland creating water holding tanks from rock.

1:00pm - Lunch Break

1:30pm - Introduction to the water turbine. Learn how to make your own fun mini-water turbine from a plastic bottle.

2:15pm - Tour of hydro-electrical generator which generates electricity for the power needs of the estate. It even has enough electricity left over to sell back to the national grid.

2:30pm - End of Tour.



KYLEMORE - CONNEMARA - CO. GALWAY

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Incredible Edibles Tour

Inspired by Agri-Aware "Incredible Edibles" programme, the tour focuses on showing how easy and fun it is to grow fruit and vegetables in even the smallest of places.

Example of Tour Outline

10:30am - Arrive at Kylemore. Introduction to Kylemore Abbey.

10:45am - Small Break – Light refreshment break. Complimentary tea and scones for teachers and assistants.

11:00am - Tour of the Abbey.

11:30am - Woodland walk to the Victorian Walled Garden.

12:00am - Tour of the magical garden. See how the garden boys lived in the restored Bothy and compare to the luxury of the restored Head Gardener's house. Both are filled with everyday items of the era. See how bananas, melons and peaches were grown by harnessing the heat from large lime kilns. Identify the variety of vegetables growing. Explore the site where dynamite was first used in the west of Ireland creating water holding tanks from rock.

1:00pm - Lunch Break

1:30pm - Meet one of the Gardeners. Introduction to the basics of seed propagation and sowing. Each student will be given a container, compost, a selection of seeds and plastic bag to create their own mini "hot house" to take away with them and watch grow at home. "Ready, Steady, Grow" Agri-aware booklet available for all students.

2:45pm - End of tour

Willow Tour

Willow is an extremely diverse tree. Native to Ireland, it is a very special tree which is happy growing in any sort of wetlands. Their uses are many including windbreaks, hedging, specimen plants, winter colour, fuel logs and weaving material for baskets and living sculptures, whilst on a wider scale they are also used for soil stabilisation, land reclamation, effluent filtration beds and making furniture. The highlight of this tour is the construction of the willow tunnels!

Example of Tour Outline

10:30am - Arrive at Kylemore. Introduction to Kylemore Abbey.

10:50am - Small Break – Light refreshment break. Complimentary tea and scones for teachers and assistants.

11:00am - Tour of the Abbey.

11:40am - Woodland walk to the Victorian Walled Garden.

12:00am - Tour of the magical garden. See how the garden boys lived in the restored Bothy and compare to the luxury of the restored Head Gardener's house. Both are filled with everyday items of the era. See how bananas, melons and peaches were grown by harnessing the heat from large lime kilns. Identify the variety of vegetables growing. Explore the site where dynamite was first used in the west of Ireland creating water holding tanks from rock.

1:10pm - Lunch

1:30pm - Introduction to the willow tree, history and uses. Create a series of wind tunnels using living willow to run through and play in when constructed.

2:45pm - End of tour



For more information and bookings please contact:
bookings@kylemoreabbeytourism.ie
Tel: 095 41146

www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie

Distance to Kylemore from:

Galway City- 1hr.

Westport - 40min.

Ballinrobe - 1hr. 20min.

Cost of each tour:

€10 per student

Lunch can be provided at €5 per student

Visit only tour:

€4.50 per student