



10: PORTMARNOCK TO MALAHIDE

A self-guided walking tour

iWalk!



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Dublin

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PORTMARNOCK TO
MALAHIDE

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Dublin Tourism
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iWalk - Portmarnock to Malahide



Ogham Stones



Secret Garden Plaque

01

Portmarnock Bridge. It will be assumed that you will choose the DART suburban rail system to travel to Portmarnock. You may also travel there by car or public bus no. 32A or 32B, in which case, the tour commences from Stop Number 2. If you travel by bus, ask the driver to let you off at the stop nearest to the Portmarnock Country Club Hotel. On arrival by car you can park in the public car park just beyond the hotel. When you exit the station turn right and walk down Station Road. Up to about the year 2004 this was a quiet country road but is now lined by a growing cluster of apartment blocks which indicate the current rapid growth in Dublin's population. When you reach the roundabout, turn left and when safe to do so, cross over to the far side of the bridge and look over at the expanse of marsh. Walk straight for about 5 minutes until you reach the Portmarnock Country Club Hotel.

02

On the way you will go through the village of Portmarnock, passing houses, shops, schools and a church. About a kilometre along the journey you will pass a house which is roofed in the traditional way with thatch. From around this area, if you look through breaks in the wall, you will see another golf links and the ruins of a small ancient church. As soon as you arrive at the front gate of the Portmarnock Country Club Hotel and Golf Links turn into the grounds of the hotel.

03

The Old Garden wall beside the Golf Links shop. Seaward are the great dunes over which you will later climb. To the left are the hotel and the path to the golf clubhouse. Proceed part of the way to the latter until you come to a group of walls which once formed part of a secret garden. Pause near to a sculptured plaque with the date '1907' carved onto it. I will talk more about this in a minute.

04

The Velvet Beach. Leave the hotel by the gateway behind the clubhouse and almost immediately turn right into the public car park. Head diagonally over to a path which obviously leads up through the dunes and onto the beach behind. The sudden noise of the breaking waves may be slightly startling, especially if the tide is in. In this Special Area of Conservation, the sand dunes are a fragile ecosystem and are only held together by the long roots of the marram grass. People are encouraged not to walk over the dunes except by the pathways. At this point you should turn left and for the moment head towards the roadway again to stand beside a large sphere with what appears to be a spike sticking out of it.

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Robs Wall Castle

05

Malahide Marina. This is the longest stretch of the walk without a formal stop. It is 2½ kms in length. Obviously, you may stop as often as you like to take in the changing views and to enjoy the local scenery. Start this segment by walking towards the Martello Tower, a fortification built in the early 19th century as part of a system of gun towers to protect the coastline against a possible invasion by Napoleon. Wherever there is a coastal path, separate from the public path alongside the road, take it in preference.

06

Malahide Castle. Leave the Marina Village by the way you came in or by the main road and through the entrance archway and continue up New Street to the cross-roads otherwise known as 'The Diamond'. As you walk along I will point out two or three sights along the way. Take a right turn along the Mall passing Old Street, which was the former Main Street of Malahide and was lined with thatched cottages less than a century ago.

A little further on, just as you come to a hump-backed bridge, is the well-preserved Malahide Railway Station, dating from 1904. You may view the station itself from the top of the bridge.

Carefully cross the busy road, preferably at the earlier pedestrian crossing, and enter their former demesne, Malahide Castle, and its 108 hectares of leisure space. The grounds include a magnificent playground, pitch & putt and golf courses, tennis courts, a cricket ground, football pitches and attractive walks. Central to the whole park is the castle, and this is your next stop. Just follow the signposts until you arrive at the lawn in front of the castle.

After your visit to the castle, where you may also relax in the coffee shop, there are a number of other attractions worthy of your attention in the vicinity of the castle such as the Fry Model Railway and Tara's Palace.

When you are ready to leave the demesne you have two choices for public transport. You may return to Malahide Railway Station by the way you came into the parkland. Alternatively, head down the central roadway leading from the front of the castle to the main exit, taking a backward look at the castle to see it in its full context. The extensive open grounds became a base from 1916 to 1918 for a blimp or airship squadron whose function was to escort ships across the submarine infested Irish Sea. At the gate is a small cottage, which is, in fact, a packed little museum run by the Old Malahide Society. Turn right onto Back Road outside the gates and head for the bus stop on the Malahide Road, passing a thatched roofed garden centre and some beautifully landscaped modern mansions.

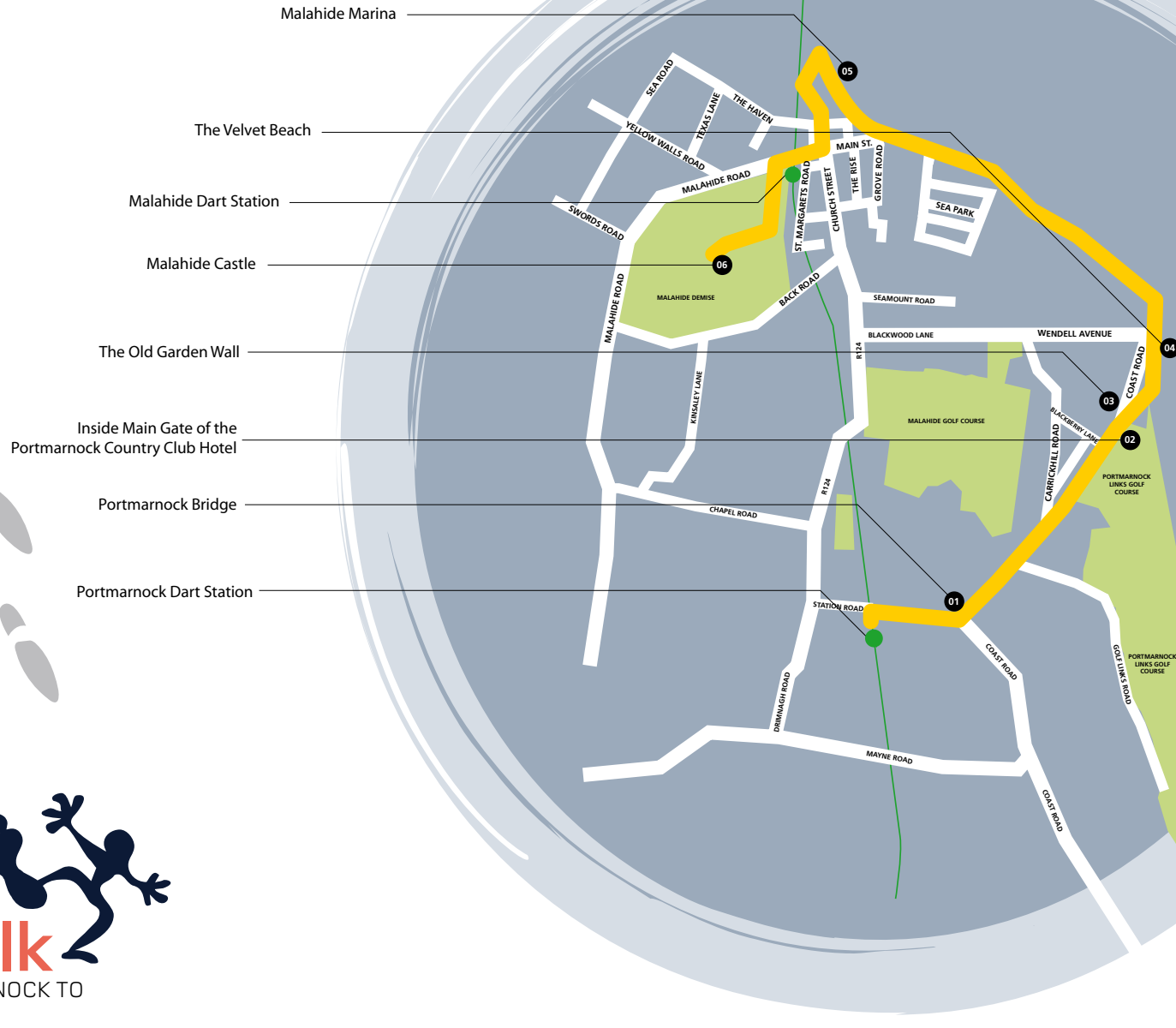


Malahide Castle



Malahide Railway station

iWalk - route map



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We hope that you enjoyed this walk which was narrated by its author, Pat Liddy, who may be visited on his website www.walkingtours.ie and brought to you by Dublin Tourism on www.visitdublin.com

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