



Mykidstime Family Guide to Kildare



Welcome to the Mykidstime Guide to Kildare. We have put together some suggestions to make your family's visit to Kildare as enjoyable as possible. As parents ourselves, we are delighted to share with you some of the family friendly spots round our county!

The Mykidstime Team

Top Ten Things to do in Kildare



1. Visit **Irish National Stud Visitor attraction** which comprises 4 attractions in one. See Stud & Horse Museum, Japanese Gardens and beautiful woodland and lakeside walks by St Fiachra's gardens. Cafe. Picnic benches in carpark. Open mid Feb to Christmas. Under 5s go free.
2. Take a walk in **Donadea Forest Park** - a lovely mixed woodland with lake and historical features incl remains of castle and walled garden. Small cafe open all year. Picnic benches. €4 exact change required for car park.



3. The **Curragh** plains are an ideal destination for flying a kite. If there is any wind - you'll catch it here! While you're there watch the horses training, or go for a walk/cycle. Best of all it's free!
4. Spend a fun-packed day at **Lullymore Heritage Park** near Rathangan. Indoor & outdoor playgrounds, pet farm, woodland walks and train rides. Picnic benches. Lots of great events around school holiday time.
5. For any train lovers, check out the **Steam Museum** in Straffan from June-Aug, where lots of models on display. Enjoy the beautiful Lodge Park Walled Garden or take a break in the Tea Rooms which are open on Sundays throughout the season.
6. Have some fun navigating the **Kildare Maze**, near Prosperous, which is in shape of St. Bridget's Cross, or play some crazy golf. There is a pets corner and sandpit. Why not pack a picnic and spend the day. Open daily from June-August, 12-6 p.m. Treasure hunts on Sundays at 1pm.
7. **Castletown House** in Celbridge, open from Apr to Oct, is Ireland's largest Palladian house and has 120 acres of surrounding Parkland, ideal for walks. Guided Tours of house. Workshops on Sundays for children and Summer music recitals on Sunday afternoons. Restaurant.
8. If the weather is wet and miserable, how about some bowling at **KBowl** near Naas.
9. The [Riverbank Theatre](#), Newbridge has a regular great line up of children's events, workshops and movies. There is also a Children's Gallery space beside the lovely Cupcake Cafe, with books, drawing material, bean-bags. So why not enjoy a coffee and let the children explore this great space!
10. Check out your crazy-golf skills at Indoor **Mini-golf** near Naas. Admission gets you 2 rounds of their 18hole crazy golf course.



Indoor Things to Do in Kildare



- **Soft play areas** in Kildare, and there are plenty of them !
Playzone at M4 Business Park, Celbridge.
Fun Factory at M7 Business Park .
Tricky Tricksters/Magic Castle at Toughers Business Park, Newhall, Naas.
Jungle Den Monread Commercial Park Monread Road, Naas.
Playbarn, Johnstown, Naas.
Little Joey's (suited best for 0-6yrs), Naas Town Centre, Naas.
- Take in a matinee at UCI Cinema in Newbridge, or Storm Cinema in Naas.
- Try your hand at [mini-golf](#), at the 18-hole crazy-golf. Toughers Business Park, Naas.
- How about bowling at [K-Bowl](#).
- Take the kids swimming to public pools at K-Leisure Naas and Athy.
- How about grabbing a coffee and letting the kids explore the Children's Art Space, at the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. There is generally an interactive exhibition for children in this space, which is right beside the coffee shop!

Outdoor Things to Do

- **Playgrounds** – see our favourites list below (FREE)
- **Lullymore Heritage Park, Rathangan** – Indoor, Outdoor Play Areas, Pet Farm, Train rides.
- **Walks** – Lovely walks at Castletown House Estate, Celbridge; Donadea Forest Park, Donadea. Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens; Canal/Barrow walk Athy;



- **Pet Farms**
 - Clonfert Pet Farm in Clonfert, Maynooth.
 - Caragh Open Farm at Caragh, Naas
 - Stonebrook Pet Farm (summer months only)
- [Millenium Maze](#), Prosperous . Open May to September. Maze with pet corner, crazy golf, picnic benches.



Where to Stay



Please mention Mykidstime when Booking

Carlton Abbey Hotel

Town Centre, Athy.

Tel: + 353 (0)59 863 0100

Fax: + 353 (0)91 521 546

Email: : reservations.abbey@carlton.ie

Web: www.carltonabbeyhotel.com

Family rooms in hotel, 2 bed apartments adjacent to hotel, Carlton Kids Club during school holidays, Children's menu available in Restaurant & Bars, Swimming Pool, Babysitting service.

Carton House Hotel

Maynooth

Tel: + 353 (0)1 5052000

Fax: + 353 (0) 1 6517703

Email:

reservations@cartonhouse.com

Web: www.cartonhouse.com

Carton House Hotel – Luxury hotel on estate with 2 golf courses, spa, close to Maynooth. Cots and interconnecting family rooms, Swimming pool with toddler pool, Tennis courts, Children's menu, Outdoor activities with Xtreme.ie(7yrs+), Mountain Bikes, Driving Range, Games room, Children's in-room movies & DVDs

Osprey Hotel & Spa

Devoy Quarter, Naas

Tel: +353 (0)45 881111

Fax: +353 (0) 45 881112

Email: info@osprey.ie

Web: www.ospreyhotel.ie

Contemporary 4* Hotel + Spa with Leisure centre in the heart of Naas town. Family friendly accommodation and Kids Club during school holidays.

The K Club

Straffan

Tel: +353 (0)1 6017200

Fax: +353 (0)1 6017 297

Email: sales@kclub.ie

Luxury 5* Hotel in Straffan with leisure centre, spa and 2 golf courses. Family friendly accommodation and dining. DVDs and colouring books delivered to your room! Playground. Bicycles for hire, and extensive



Web: www.kclub.ie

The Westgrove Hotel

Clane

Tel: +353 (0)45 989900

Fax: +353 (0)45 989911

Email: info@westgrovehotel.com

Web: www.westgrovehotel.com

walks and gardens. Kids club during school holidays

Family friendly accommodation and dining in the heart of Clane, with family rooms in hotel and apartments. Leisure club with swimming pool. Groovies Kids Club during school holidays.

Where to Eat



- L'Officina, Kildare Village, Kildare is very family friendly Italian with children's menus, plenty of high-chairs. Lovely al-fresco dining when weather is good, and beside Playground! Open from breakfast through to 6pm most days (8pm Thurs, Fri and Sat). Be warned – can be very busy at lunch-time at weekends!
- Whitewater Shopping Centre – Foodcourt with SBarros and all the other usuals. Gourmet Burger Kitchen is just outside the centre on The Avenue, and can be a nice option for pre or post cinema!
- Judge Roy Beans – across from Whitewater. Family friendly dining and do Kids Movie deals in conjunction with UCI Cinema.
- Fallons Café & Bar, Kilcullen – nice cosy bar-side dining or restaurant options with children's menu.
- Also in Kilcullen, Good Food Gallery for day-time dining/café and An Tearmann.
- Eddie Rocket's, Main Street, Naas.
- Missy Moo's, Naas. Home-made Ice-Cream parlour, with great cow artwork on the walls!
- The Ballymore Inn, Ballymore Eustace – family friendly dining in bar or restaurant, with nice children's menu. Great pizzas! Great food.
- Zest Café & Restaurant, Clane. Great pizzas.



Playgrounds



- Kildare Village – great playground beside restaurant.
- Kildare town – Station road. Good mix for younger and older kids.
- Killcullen – beside Community Centre – sand and water area so might need a change of clothes for the smaller kids! Wellies recommended for toddlers, as sand can get mucky.
- Moone Playground, Moone – lovely wooden structures in park with goal posts.
- Maynooth Playground

Other Suggestions

- Visit www.mykidstime.ie for lots more suggestions for things to do while you are in Kildare

Shopping



- Dunnes, Tesco, LIDL, Aldi are well-represented across the county, with large Tesco(toys, clothes etc.) in Naas(Monread Rd) and Maynooth(Carton Rd)

Newbridge

- Early Learning Centre and Mothercare on Charlotte Street, Newbridge



- Whitewater Shopping Centre – with Debenhams, Food-Court, Art and Hobby Shop and Easons + lots more!

Naas

- Smyths Toy Store Monread Rd., Naas
- HauteMama – Maternity Store with Big Elf Toys (wooden toys) also. Main Street.
- Barker & Jones Book Shop – Kids floor with Storytime on Sunday afternoons. Coffee shop also.

Kildare

- Outlet shopping at Kildare Village. Great children's playground and family friendly dining options at L'Officina.

Maynooth

- Manor Mills Shopping Centre – Easons store.



Other Useful Information

Where can we park?

- In Newbridge, multi-story car-park at Whitewater Shopping Centre.
- There is a multi-storey car park in at the Town Centre, Naas. Some of the car-parks around the town have been privatised, and are very strict on exceeding time-limit (with clamping!). Be warned! Municipal on-street pay-parking.
- In Maynooth, free car-parking at Manor Mills Shopping Centre.

There is pay parking on most town streets in the county.

Where can we change baby?

You can change baby in these places:

- Whitewater Shopping Centre, Newbridge
- Town Centre, Naas
- Manor Mills Shopping Centre, Maynooth
- Mothercare Newbridge
- Kildare Village

Tourist Information

The Kildare Tourist Office is located in the same building as the Kildare Town Heritage Centre, in the old Market House, Market Square in Kildare Town. Open Monday to Saturday from 9:30am – 5pm (closed for lunch from 1-2pm)