

# Historic Waterford Walking Trail

A 3 hour tour of Waterford City's History.

Tour starts at Reginald's Tower. A guided walking tour is also available. For further information, contact the Bishops Palace Museum.



Waterford Civic Trust  
Comhantas Ceartaíla Póil Lárge  
Grefriars, Waterford City



Waterford City  
Picture the Experience

**MAP LEGEND**

- 1 Numbered Point of Interest
- 49A Sub-section Point of Interest
- Anglo / Norman Fortifications
- Viking Town Fortifications



# Points of Interest

**1 Reginald's Tower 12th Century:** Waterford's historic umbilicus. Built on site of original Viking foundation of Dundory (Irish Fort of Oak) c 1003AD. Later used as a mint and as a jail. Houses Waterford's museum of Viking artefacts.



1 Reginald's Tower

**2 Conningbeg Memorial:** Honours the memory of those lost when two Waterford steamers SS Conningbeg and SS Formby were torpedoed in December 1917.

**3 William Vincent Wallace Plaza:** Erected at the millennium 2000AD to honour the memory of the Waterford born (1812-1865) operatic composer of operas such as Maritana and Lurline.

**4 Bailey's New Street:** Laid out as a new street in the 16th century on the lands of the suppressed religious Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans).

**5 The Munster:** Late 18th century hotel on mediaeval foundations, now a bar and restaurant with a fine oak paneled dining room.

**6 Coffee House Lane:** The site of the 17th century warehouses of the East India Company and the first Coffee House in Waterford. Viking House hostel has a large 16th century fireplace.

**7 Greyfriars:** Franciscan friary built 1240 and suppressed by Henry VIII in 1540. Subsequently the Holy Ghost Hospital and also from late 17th century, the chapel of Huguenot immigrants, locally known as the French church.

**8 Luke Wadding OFM:** Waterford born (1588-1657) Franciscan friar and influential diplomat of Catholic Confederation. Founder of the Irish College in Rome. Died and buried in Rome.

**9 Deanery:** A building of the mediaeval cathedral close. Built on 15th century undercroft and altered in later centuries. Site of the house of Stephen de Fulburn, Bishop of Waterford (1274-1286) Justiciar of Ireland.



11 Mediaeval Museum

**10 Cathedral Square:** The graveyard and part of the close of the cathedral since its foundation in 1096AD.

**11 Mediaeval Museum:** Opened in 2012 to house Waterford's remarkable collection of mediaeval artefacts, charters and muniments. Access through museum to **(11A) Deanery undercroft, 15th cent:** A typical merchant's cellar of the 15th century with wicker centering in the roof. Used to store wine and other expensive goods. **(11B) Chorister's Hall 13th cent:** The only upstanding part of Waterford's 13th century gothic cathedral. Has a fine arcade of columns with plank centering in the ceiling.

**12 John Robert's House, Cathedral Square:** Distinguished architect (1714-1796) of Waterford's two 18th century cathedrals. The Robert's family is buried in Greyfriars Church.



13 Christchurch Cathedral

**13 Christ Church Cathedral 1773:** The third building to stand on this site. Waterford's first bishop, Malchus was consecrated in Canterbury in England in 1096AD. The original Romanesque church was extended in the 13th century with a Gothic nave and Triforium. Demolished to erect the present Georgian structure.

**14 Cathedral ante chapel: (14A) Gothic column:** Remains of one of the 13th century columns built with Dundry stone imported from the Bristol area of England. The column is asymmetrical as it marks the transition in the original nave between the Romanesque and the Gothic structures. The bottom 2 metres of the original Cathedral structures are still upstanding beneath the present building. **(14B) James Rice cadaver tomb:** James Rice (died 1488) merchant, pilgrim to Santiago de Compostela and Mayor of Waterford on 11 occasions between 1469 and 1486. Wonderful example of a table top (mensal) tomb with the legend "As I am now, so you will be". **(14C) FitzGerald monument:** Funerary monument of 1770 of the local sept of the FitzGeralds of King's Meadow.

**15 Bishop's Palace 1741:** Magnificent see house, built to design of Richard Cassel, architect of Leinster House in Dublin. Now houses Waterford's museum of the 18th century. Built on foundations and undercroft of mediaeval palace.

**16 Widow's Apartments 1701:** Built with bequest of Bishop Huge Gore (died 1693) to house "distressed clergymen's widows." Stands on site of castle occupied by King John of England during his visit to Waterford in 1215AD.

**17 Lady Lane:** Street named for the now vanished Church of St Mary's. The street has some fine 18th century Georgian Houses.

**18 Franciscan church 1834:** Extended 1907. Having failed to reoccupy their mediaeval church after Catholic Emancipation in 1828, the Order of Friars Minor built this new church in a restrained classical style.

**19 St Olaf's Church 1723:** Church of Ireland parish church, built by Bishop Mills on the earlier medieval structure of the same name. Wonderfully sited pedimented doorway.

**20 Peter Street, level 1 of City Square Shopping Centre car park:** The excavated remains of a very early apsed (11th century) parish church of St Peter's.

**21 Campanile of St Michael's Church:** Sole remains of the 13th century parish church of St Michael's is this small two ope bell tower.

**22 St. Martin's Gate:** Excavations carried out in 1983 uncovered the remains of St. Martin's Gate, a 13th century gate and portcullis flanked by twin towers. The passage or entrance was kept narrow to hinder invaders and to facilitate the collection of the murage tax levied on goods brought into the city.

**23 City Library:** Endowed by Andrew Carnegie who laid the foundation stone in October 1903. **(23A) Interior:** Glass panels in the floor show the remains of the mediaeval Our Lady's Gate, one of the historic city gateways.

**24 The Cross:** So called by all Waterford people. The Junction of Michael Street, Broad Street, Peter Street and Patrick Street. The mediaeval Market Cross stood in the centre of this junction to 1750. Site of the city stocks and place of execution up to late 17th century. Was also the site of the mediaeval guildhall.

**25 Broad Street:** Market place of the city with strict municipal rules of cleanliness and maintenance from mediaeval times.

**26 Arundel Lane:** Site of mediaeval Arundel Castle and gate up to early 18th century. Marks the transition from the older Viking city to the later (1226AD) Anglo Norman extension of the city.

**27 Blackfriars Church, Conduit Lane:** Founded 1226, remains of the church and conventual buildings of the Order of Friars Preachers (Dominicans). Suppressed 1540 by Henry VIII and later used as a Play House and county courthouse up to 1784.

**28 Blackfriars Street:** Formed a link between the Viking city and the later Anglo Norman city after the construction of the Dominican Abbey of 1226. Entrance to west door of the mediaeval church.

**29 Barronstrand Street, Penney's Department Store:** Upstanding remains of Hiberno Norse/Norman city wall in store, uncovered during construction. **(29A) Cathedral of Most Holy Trinity (RC) 1793:** Built to design of John Roberts on the site of an earlier Great Chapel which the city corporation had permitted in a back street location despite penal, anti catholic legislation. At its quay end stood the mediaeval Barron Strand Gate to the city, and tidal mill.

**30 Clock Tower:** Originally called the Fountain Clock as it had three drinking water fountains at its base. This four faced clock in neo-gothic style was erected by City Corporation in 1861 on site of historic fish house.

**31 Granville Hotel, Meagher's Quay:** Birthplace of Irish patriot and American civil war hero, Brig Gen Thomas Francis Meagher (1823-1867) Also the location of the Waterford HQ of the Charles Bianconi road carriage network from 1825.

**32 George's Street:** St Patrick's (RC) Church c1750: Unique survivor of an urban catholic church of early 18th century. Described as the "finest remaining of its type". Wonderful reredos and side galleries.

**33 O'Connell Street, Assembly House 1841:** Built to design of Thomas Jackson now the meeting rooms and offices of the Southern and Eastern Assembly. Formerly the premises of the Waterford Saving's Bank. Its first floor boardroom would "grace the Bank of England".

**34 O'Connell Street, Garter Lane theatre and Art centre 1787:** Formerly the meeting house of the Society of Friends (Quakers) many of whose members had business premises in this area.

**35 Jenkin's Lane, Beach Tower c1470:** Corner defensive Tower on city walls with typical 15th century Irish crenellations. Exhibits both cannon and arrow loops. Built on the base of an earlier mural tower.

**36 George's Street, Port of Waterford building 1785:** The town house of the Morris family of Rosduff built to design of John Robert's. Exquisite oval staircase and stucco work by Patrick Osborne. Acquired by Chamber of Commerce (established 1787) in 1815.

**37 Stony Steps:** Historic passage way outside the city walls from quays to the citadel and green at Ballybricken.



15 Bishop's Palace

court house (1784) of James Gandon, demolished 1841 for new city and county jail, subsequently demolished in 1951 for government offices and Garda station.

**39 Patrick's Street, St Patrick's (C of I) Church 1724:** Re-built on site of mediaeval foundation. Was just inside the historic West Gate or St Patrick's Gate entrance to the city.

**40 Batchelor's Walk, rear of De La Salle School:** Long stretch and semi lunar tower of mediaeval city walls.

**41 Barrack Street, Mount Sion School 1802:** Street named for the artillery and cavalry barracks built in the late 18th century. School is the foundation house and last resting place of founder of Irish Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice.

**42 Castle Street, (42A) French Tower:** Corner, irregular shaped, defensive tower on mediaeval city walls. **(42B) Double Tower:** Rectangular defensive mural tower on mediaeval city walls.

**43 Manor Street, St John's Priory 13th Cent:** Remains of the Benedictine abbey. Suppressed by Henry VIII in 1540. The possessions and lands of Manor St. John given to the historic Wyse family whose funeral vault still occupies part of the surviving ruins.



22 St. Martin's Gate

**44 Railway Square, Watch Tower 13th Cent:** Corner tower on mediaeval city walls. Was adjacent to the now vanished Closegate entrance to the historic city.

**45 Johnstown, John's Bridge 13th Cent:** Upstream pointed arch mediaeval bridge linking city with its Johnstown suburbs, was widened in 1765 with downstream two classical, round arch extension.

**46 Johnstown, County and City Infirmary 1785:** Built to design of John Roberts from the possessions and estate of the Leper Hospital of St Stephen. Subsequently converted to the County and City Infirmary in 1879 and now apartments.

**47 South Parade, People's Park 1857:** Laid out by public subscription it contains two fine, Imperial Russian, bronze cannon captured at Sebastopol during the Crimean War in 1855. **(46A) Carlisle Bridge:** Lattice work iron bridge connecting People's Park with Courthouse grounds opened August 1857 by and named for then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, William Frederick Howard, 7th Earl of Carlisle.

**48 South Parade, Hardy's Bridge 1841/2:** Handsome Limestone bridge over St John's Pill (small river) to commemorate the captain of Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory at Trafalgar, Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy (1769-1839).

**49 Catherine Street, City Court house 1841:** Built to the design of Terence O'Reilly as the first act of the reformed city corporation, on the site of the ruins of St Catherine's Abbey which had been suppressed in 1540 by Henry VIII. Many of the 2256 dead from the 1604 outbreak of plague in the city were buried in these grounds. **(49A) Protestant Hall and Sunday School Institute 1860:** Built in Italianate style to design of Abraham Denny, now used as offices. **(49B) Corner of The Mall and Catherine Street:** Terracotta wall plaques to commemorate composer William Vincent Wallace, born 1812 in Colbeck Street, just opposite.

**50 Colbeck Street:** Caldebeck, An caladh beag (Irish) = the little port, Colbeck Street Gate marked the entrance from St Catherine's abbey to the mediaeval city.

**51 The Mall, Black Arch 15th Cent:** Adjacent to Theatre Royal: Mural postern gate with murder hole over, providing access from cathedral close to The Mall which was then an inlet of River Suir (Irish = sister) until early 18th century when it was drained and formally laid out.

**52 The Mall, City Hall and Theatre Royal 1783:** Built to design of John Robert's as fashionable Assembly Rooms with a theatre, ballroom and dining rooms, acquired by City Corporation to house city hall and council chamber when that body moved from the Exchange on the quays in 1813.

**53 33 The Mall:** Fine regency, bow fronted house of the Carew family, later known as the Wolfe Tone Club. Thomas Francis Meagher publicly displayed the national tricolour for the first time, from an upstairs window, in March 1848.

**54 The Mall:** Equestrian statue of Brig Gen Thomas Francis Meagher (1823-1867), Irish Patriot and American Civil War hero.