



The museum offers a range of spaces for meetings, private events and launches. See www.museum.ie for further information.

Venue Hire

The Irish Farmers Association Millennium Library & Archive is located in Turlough Park House and is a centre for the study and research of folklife. For bookings please contact the museum on 094 90 31755 or email tpark@museum.ie

Research Facilities

The museum invites you to share your stories and memories of Irish country life. Record your memories in the Memory Book Corner on Level C in the museum galleries or download a memory sheet from museum.ie.

Memory Book

There is a host of activities for families and children to enjoy. Hunt for Peadar the Pymy Shrew, take the Animal Trail Challenge, dress up in clothes from the 1800s, or enjoy some traditional games in the gardens. Ask at Reception for further details.

Children's activities

The Museum Shop offers a wide range of unique Irish crafts, gifts and books. The Museum Cafe, located in the courtyard, serves snacks, lunches, speciality teas and coffees, homemade sweet treats and children's specials.

Museum Shop and Cafe

Admission to the exhibition galleries and Turlough Park House is free. Groups are welcome through the Bookings Office. Guided tours with an experienced museum guide must be booked in advance and cost €40. The museum offers a full programme of workshops, tours and activities for schools and colleges. For more information, contact the Education Team on +353 94 903 1751 or email educationtph@museum.ie.

Groups and Tours

The museum has a free programme of temporary exhibitions, activities and events year round. Browse our upcoming events and temporary exhibitions at www.museum.ie.

What's On

1 Glasshouse

The original glass house was built around 1874 but was destroyed by a violent storm in the 1930s. The current structure was rebuilt in 2000 and houses a variety of hothouse plants.

2 Model Thatch Cottage

This biodegradable thatched 'house' was constructed to demonstrate the variety of materials used to build houses across Ireland.

3 Oldest Tree

Located to the side of the galleries, this beech tree, the oldest in Turlough Park, has been granted special 'Veteran Status'.

4 Greenway

The 7km Turlough to Castlebar Greenway passes through peaceful countryside and woodland.

5 18th Century Ruin

Just inside the main entrance, you'll see the remains of the original Fitzgerald residence, built in 1722.

6 Round Tower

This 11th century tower is situated on the hillside graveyard overlooking the National Museum of Ireland.



Next to the exhibition galleries, explore historic Turlough Park House, the ancestral home of the Fitzgerald family. Beautifully situated, Turlough Park House overlooks 39 acres of Victorian gardens, and parkland, woodland, and an artificial lake.

Welcome to the award-winning National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, where we invite you to immerse yourself in the unique stories, rich heritage and fascinating cultural traditions of our rural ancestors. The main exhibition gallery was opened to the public in 2001 to house the national collection of objects representing Irish traditional life.



Floorplans English

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life



Museum Floorplan Guide

LEVEL A

1 Introduction

What is Folklife? An introduction to the National Folklife Collection.

2 Traditional Dress

Observe the traditional dress used by those living on the Aran Islands – home spun woollen garments, knitted jumpers, caps and pampooties (traditional cowhide shoes).

3 Romance and Reality

We sometimes imagine the past in a simplistic and romantic way. The truth, however, was a life of hard toil where disease was rife, diet was poor and survival was very much dependent on a detailed knowledge of the landscape.

LEVEL B

4 Cycling the Country

By the 1930s, bicycles had become a key mode of transport across Ireland. This display explores the history and development of the bicycle and includes some memories of cycling the country.

5 The Times

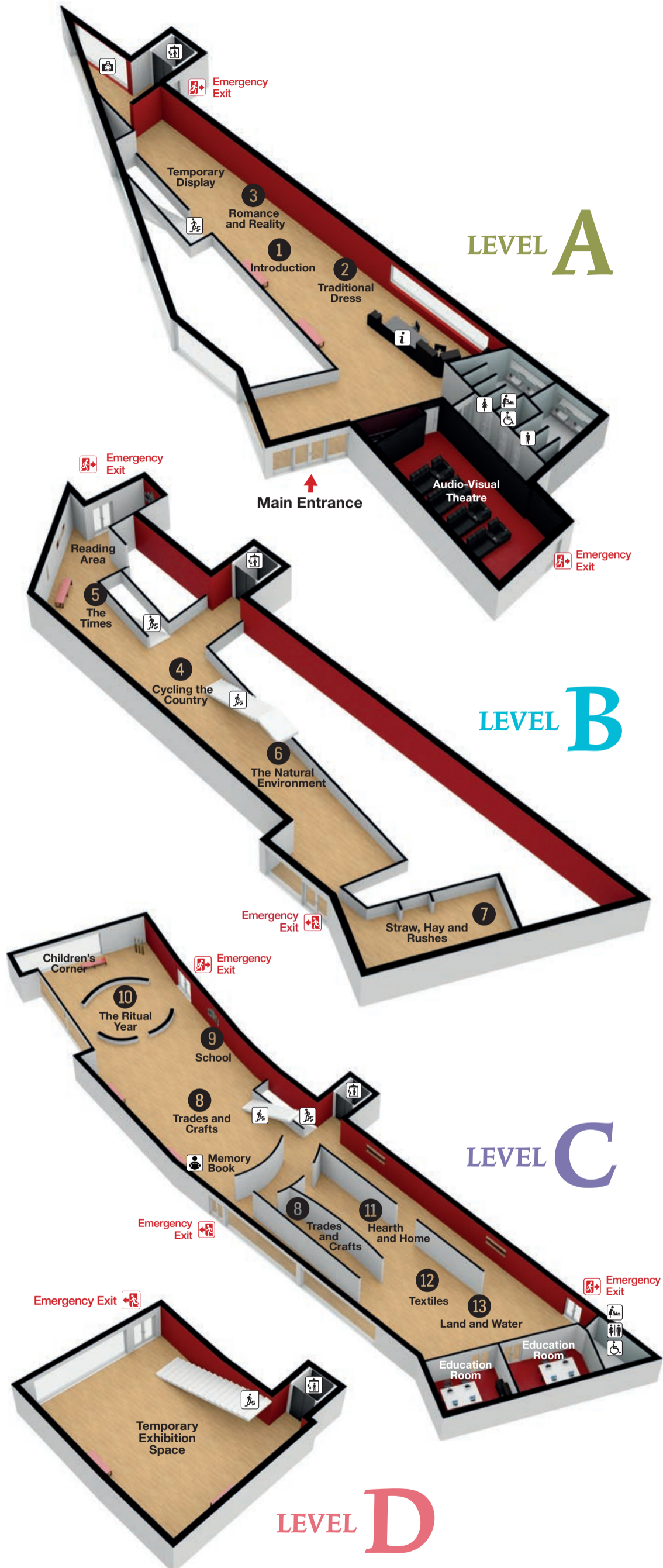
In the century between roughly 1850 and 1950, people living in rural Ireland participated in great political movements and experienced sweeping social changes. This section provides some historical context of this era.

6 The Natural Environment

Life in rural Ireland was very much influenced by the landscape and its natural resources. People used local materials to make everyday items. As a result, similar objects were often made of different materials, depending on what resources were available locally.

7 Straw, Hay and Ruses

Discover the ingenuity and craftsmanship of rural dwellers who, because of the scarcity of money, used natural materials to create everyday items. Objects on display include baskets, mats, chairs and a complete horse tack and rush riding saddle.



LEVEL C

8 Trades and Crafts

Observe the hand-made tools which were crafted using locally sourced materials by the local blacksmith, wood turner or carpenter. Trades were often handed down from generation to generation.

9 School

While people were impoverished, the importance of education was recognised with people needing to be able to add and subtract to ensure they weren't being swindled at the fair. Here you can immerse yourself in school lessons of old.

10 The Ritual Year

Explore how rural and traditional Irish communities celebrated seasonal festivals with traditional crafts and practices. Many of the traditional festival rituals centred on protecting families and the farmstead from the mischievous beings of the otherworld.

11 Hearth and Home

Experience life in a traditional Irish home and immerse yourself in the tales of family and emigration. You'll observe the importance of the hearth in the home which provided light, heat and warmth to all as well as being the central area for cooking, crafts and entertainment.

12 Textiles

View the clothes typically worn by people in the countryside. These clothes were usually made of hard-wearing materials such as wool or linen. New clothes, whether made or bought, were a rarity.

13 Land and Water

See how a traditional Irish farmer worked in tune with the seasons to grow and gather food. Learn about fishing methods and the boats used by those who turned to the sea, the river and the lake for their harvest.

LEVEL D

Temporary Exhibition Space

For information on current and upcoming exhibitions, see www.museum.ie/countrylife

