



BALLYFIN



“Yesterday, I saw a most delightful place indeed, much beyond any place I have seen in Ireland – Ballyfin.”

— LADY KILDARE, 1759

For centuries the enchanting beauties of Ballyfin have been admired by visitors like Lady Kildare from Carton House in the adjoining county. Set at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains in the centre of Ireland – but still only 80 minutes from Dublin airport – it is a place of history and romance, of tranquillity and great natural beauty. Stone walls enclose 600 acres of parkland, a lake and ancient woods, delightful garden buildings, follies and grottoes abound.

Ballyfin is steeped in Irish history and the site has been settled from ancient times. The house itself has long been admired as the most lavish Regency mansion in Ireland, the work of the great Irish architects Sir Richard and William Morrison.

Over the last decade the magnificent estate has been painstakingly restored to become a small hotel like no other.

Irish country houses were created as places for entertainment. The recent restoration has aimed at returning Ballyfin as closely as possible to how it functioned when it was built. Each of the fifteen bedrooms is individually and sensitively decorated, the public rooms are furnished with important Irish art and antiques from around the world.

Ballyfin is the perfect location to celebrate special occasions. Its comfort lends itself to family celebrations, its magnificent grandeur makes it perfect for weddings while its unparalleled seclusion and privacy makes it an ideal setting for business retreats.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Ballyfin.

The Saloon with its enormous Italian chimney piece and blazing log fire.





The Drawing Room. The furnishings echo the French, Empire-style decoration of the room with its magnificent ceiling. The chandelier came from the Paris town house of Queen Caroline of Naples, sister to Emperor Napoleon, while displayed around the walls is part of the collection of Irish art. In this room house guests used to assemble before dinner and it is the perfect spot for cocktail hour.



Modelled on the tradition of the Irish County House, Ballyfin is designed for those who want to enjoy a few days of absolute peace and to experience the noble tradition of Irish hospitality.

From the enormous Saloon at the heart of the house, to the eighty-foot Library which runs the length of its south façade, the State Rooms make for a glorious backdrop to a stay in the house. The Library is perfect for whiling away a few hours with plenty of quiet corners for conversation. Alternatively guests may enjoy the elegance of the Drawing Room, with its French inspired decoration and beautiful ceiling of rich stucco work, the grandeur of the Saloon, or the informality of the sun-filled Conservatory, reached through a secret door hidden in a bookshelf of the Library.

Above: The Library. A secret door concealed in the bookcase leads into the sun drenched Conservatory (right).





There are thirteen bedrooms and two suites, all exquisitely appointed but each utterly individual.

As with the State Rooms downstairs, all are furnished with fine paintings and antiques with comfort as the main priority. Every detail has been considered to ensure your complete relaxation.

At the front of the house the bedrooms enjoy breath-taking views overlooking the lake while those at the rear enjoy perhaps even better views towards the scintillating water cascade and gardens.

Overleaf: the Lady Caroline Coote Room. Formerly Lady Coote's Boudoir, this room is acclaimed as one of the finest Empire-style interiors to be found in Ireland.

Above: the sitting room of the Sir Christopher Coote Suite.

Opposite: a magnificent nineteenth-century French bed in the Westmeath Room.





Ballyfin offers a wide choice of dining experiences in delightfully elegant surroundings. From a customized breakfast to a delicious lunch of your choice and onwards into the evening with a bespoke dinner.

Guests hiking, biking or simply relaxing may opt for a traditional, gourmet picnic hamper to enjoy in any location across the grounds, or select an al fresco meal on the terrace of the main house. The cocktail hour is back at Ballyfin, ushering in dinner where you may choose from the grandeur of the State Dining Room or the intimacy of the Van Der Hagen Dining Room, or indeed enjoy something more simple to be served in the Library or the Bar.

Opposite: Breakfast on the terrace overlooking the water cascade.

Above: The State Dining Room.



A trip to the well-stocked cellar, guided by our sommelier, to personally select your wine so that it is perfectly decanted and ready for you at dinner is a highlight for many guests. The Irish 'Wild Geese' winemakers of Bordeaux, who fled persecution at home, were among the most innovative viticulture pioneers of the eighteenth century and in honour of this Irish contribution to France, wines have been carefully selected for the cellar at Ballyfin from fourteen vineyards established by Irish exiles.

Downstairs at Ballyfin, the former Servants Hall has been converted into a stylish modern bar. Here informality reigns and the room provides a perfect setting for part of Ballyfin's extensive collection of contemporary Irish art, which includes works by Louis le Brocquy, Kathy Prendergast and William Crozier. The same creative spirit which led to the building of Ballyfin and the landscaping of its park – and also to the many fine eighteenth and nineteenth-century paintings on display elsewhere in the house – continues to sparkle in Ireland today.



Top: The Ballyfin Bar, great for late night music sessions.

Above: Wine tastings are a regular feature in the Wine Cellar.

Opposite: The Stone Tower prominently sited on a hill above the house.





Guests are encouraged to enjoy Ballyfin after their own fashion, it is a place of urbane leisure and refined relaxation. The estate is fabled for its natural – and man-made – beauties and, as the house is open to residents only, Ballyfin offers a perfect opportunity for rest, tranquillity and outdoor activities.

Activities include spa treatments, fitness centre with the latest cardiovascular equipment and swimming pool, falconry, archery, boating, fishing, tennis, croquet, biking, bird watching, garden and estate walks, history, art and antiques tours.



Opposite: The eighteenth-century grotto situated close to the house in the beech woods overlooking the lake.



Dublin	95 km / 60 miles
Dublin Airport	100km / 63 miles
Shannon Airport	130 km / 80 miles
Cork	170 km / 105 miles
Kilkenny	58 km / 35 miles
Galway	160 km / 100 miles

This magical place offers the very best of Irish hospitality in the most beautiful surroundings imaginable.

With only fifteen rooms for the 600 acre estate, it is the perfect place for a break from the stresses of the modern world and provides discretion and privacy like few other destinations. Come and enjoy life in one of the greatest country houses in Ireland.

Welcome to Ireland. Welcome to Ballyfin.

Opposite: the riot of colour in the walled garden.

Overleaf: the gentle sound of running water from the Cascade is a perfect, musical backdrop to meals on the terrace.



Ballyfin Demesne, Ballyfin, County Laois, Ireland

tel: +353 (0)5787 55866    fax: +353 (0)5787 55883  
info@ballyfin.com    www.ballyfin.com

