

*'Some think that angels, beasts of the field, and fowls of the air do fly or run to Rathfarnham'*

Robert Legge, 1590.

#### Contact details

(01) 4939462  
rathfarnhamcastle@opw.ie  
www.rathfarnhamcastle.ie

Find us on Facebook (search for Rathfarnham Castle)

#### Opening Hours

Summer (May to September inclusive):  
Open seven days including Bank Holiday Mondays  
9.30-5.30 (last admission 4.45)

Winter (October to April inclusive):  
Open Wed-Sun 10.30-5.00 (last admission 4.15).

#### Admission Prices

Adult €4.00  
Senior/Group €3.00  
Student €2.00  
Family €10.00

Heritage Cards are also available to purchase at Rathfarnham Castle.

#### Facilities and Access

The Castle is fully accessible with an entrance ramp and lift. Toilet facilities on-site. There is an adjoining tea-room which is open seven days.

#### Directions

Rathfarnham Castle is approximately 5km south of Dublin City Centre.

#### Driving

From Christ Church Cathedral in the City take the R137 (later R114) south directly to the Castle. Ample pay-and-display car parking is available near by.

#### Bus

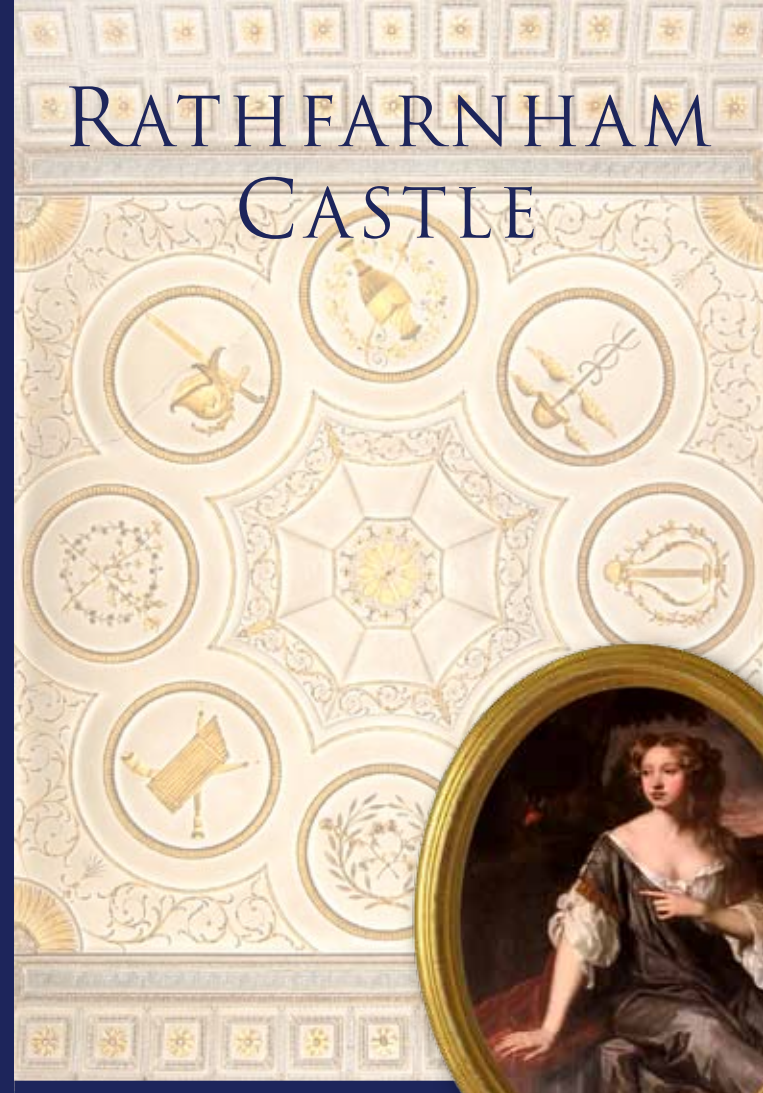
A regular Dublin Bus service (nos 16 and 15b) stops outside the Castle. These buses can be caught on Dame St or South Great Georges St in the City Centre.



Photography:  
Davison & Associates (Apollo ceiling)  
National Monuments Photography Unit (Exterior shot)



# RATHFARNHAM CASTLE





# Welcome to Rathfarnham Castle

This Elizabethan period fortified house was commissioned in 1583 by the Archbishop-Chancellor of Ireland, Adam Loftus (d.1605), as his private residence. The design was radically modern for the time and the building combined defensive features such as the four angled corner towers and a series of musket loops with the comfort and status demanded by the owner.

Extensive remodelling and redecoration of Rathfarnham Castle took place in the eighteenth century under a series of later owners. Perhaps most notable are the works commissioned by Henry Loftus (d.1783) of such famous architects and designers as Sir William Chambers and James 'Athenian' Stuart. Much of the neo-classical design and decoration which characterises the building today can be attributed to their efforts.



The Loftus family left and sold Rathfarnham Castle in the nineteenth century and it was occupied by a series of later owners, most notably the Blackburne family who lived here until 1911. For much of the remainder of the twentieth century the building was used by the Jesuit religious order before coming under State care following their departure in the late nineteen eighties.

## What will I see?

Visitors can choose to self guide through the building or take a guided tour.

You will learn about the origins and early history of the building and the Loftus family before proceeding through a series of finely decorated eighteenth-century rooms. For example, you will see the grand entrance hall complete with doric columns and neo-classical marble busts and the ballroom which was the focus of aristocratic entertainment. Several rooms feature antique furniture and a collection of original paintings, landscapes and portraits, are hung throughout the building.



A series of regular temporary exhibitions are also held at Rathfarnham Castle throughout the year.

For details about these and other special events please consult our website or Facebook page (see below).

## What else is nearby?

**Pearse Museum and St Enda's Park:** Former school run by the Irish revolutionary Patrick Pearse. Now a museum in one of Dublin's most charming parks. Features a dedicated Nature Room.

**Marlay Park:** Extensive parkland with a large Georgian house built for the first governor of the Bank of Ireland, David La Touche. Craftcentre and coffee shop now in the ancillary buildings. Marlay Park is also the starting point for the Wicklow Way walking trail.

**The Hellfire Club:** Now ruined eighteenth-century hunting lodge built by William Connolly in the Dublin mountains.

