



Guided Tours at the Portico of Ards - an Arts and Heritage Centre in Portaferry, County Down

- *A one hour guided tour, inside and out, with one of our knowledgeable guides*
- *Includes architectural highlights, history of the church and its restoration*
- *A visit to the organ loft (NB steep spiral staircase) and period-panelled Orr Room*
- *An additional one hour, immediately afterwards, to explore Portico's interactive displays, Christian heritage music timeline, historical exhibits, organ and grounds*
- *Optional tea/coffee and freshly baked scones or Irish produce picnic.*



- Explore the local history timeline with interactive digital content
- Examine artefacts including 5000 year old Neolithic finds
- Listen to the interactive Christian Music Timeline (with audio samples)
- Have a go on the refurbished pipe organ (or make it play a recital!)
- Explore the Digital Film Archive and play archive clips
- Relax in the panelled period Orr Room (below) with tea/coffee and freshly baked scones or try an Irish produce picnic in our charming gardens.



Stay for a concert!



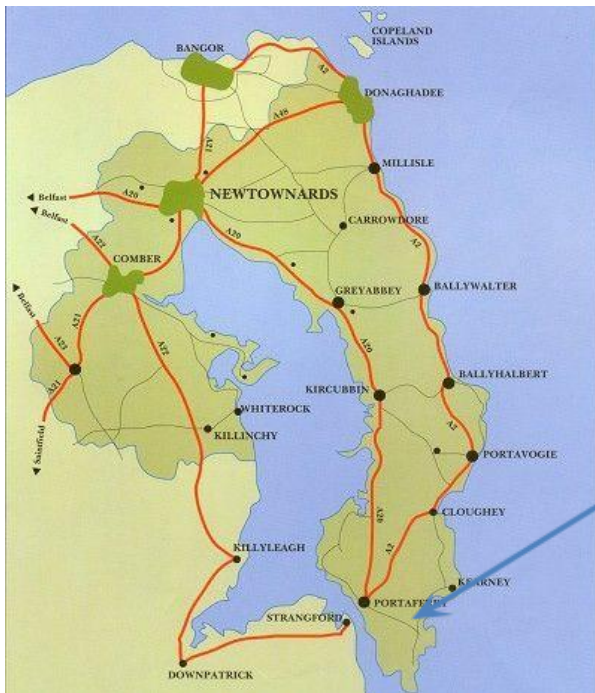
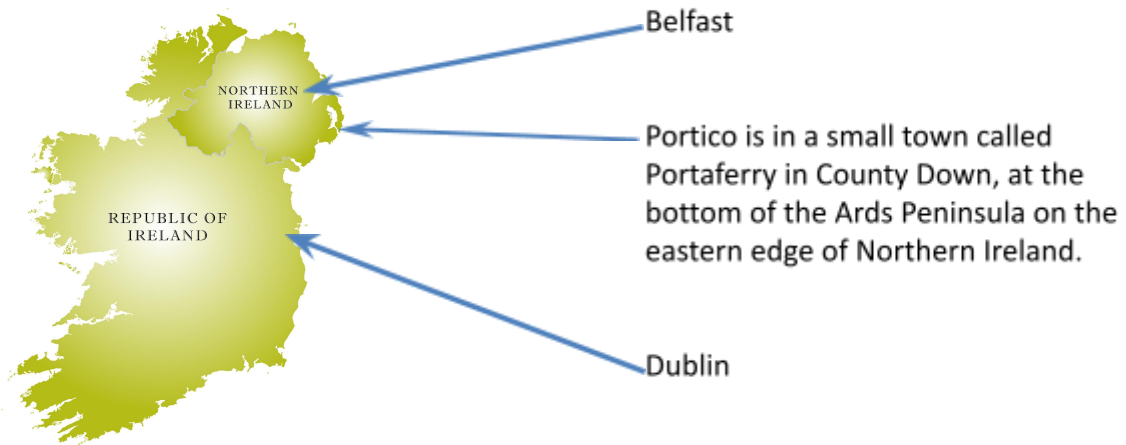
We hold over 50 events each year and there's usually something on most weekends.

We host music concerts of all kinds, from Classical to Country, as well as performances of all kinds including theatre, opera and stand up comedy.

In September we hold our Comedy Arts Festival across two weekends - six events guaranteed to make you feel good!

Check out what's coming up at Porticoards.com

Where is Portico?



Portaferry is situated at the tip of the Ards Peninsula, at the entrance to Strangford Lough in an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



FAQ

How far away are the nearest major transport connections?

Belfast is a 45 minutes drive and has two airports and several ferry terminals.

Dublin is a 1 hour and 45 minutes drive and also has both airport and ferry connections.

Is there parking for coaches?

Yes there is plenty of free parking for coaches next to Portico.

Is Portico fully accessible?

Yes, there are lifts and designated facilities to ensure Portico is fully accessible. Only the organ loft, with a steep narrow staircase, is not.

How much notice is needed?

We ask for at least one week's notice of any tour group. Availability at shorter notice is possible but not guaranteed – feel free to ask!

Where can tour groups stay or eat near Portico?

The Portaferry Hotel is a five-minute walk from Portico. This charming historic 3* hotel has 14 individually decorated bedrooms, an award-winning restaurant and fabulous lough views. www.portaferryhotel.com

A short scenic ferry ride (10 mins) takes you to The Cuan Inn in Strangford. This 4* guesthouse specialises in Game of Thrones banquets. www.thecuan.com

The 5* Slieve Donard Hotel is half an hour away in Newcastle.

www.hastingshotels.com/slieve-donard-resort-and-spa

What else do you recommend near Portico?

Ards Peninsula Tours for fascinating coastal walks & Celtic heritage tours

www.ardspeninsulatours.com

Castleward, Kearney & Mount Stewart National Trust properties

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-ward

Echlinville Distillery Tours

www.echlinville.com

Exploris Aquarium – Northern Ireland's only aquarium

<https://www.explorisni.com>

Grey Abbey – 12th century Cistercian priory

www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/things-to-do/grey-abbey

St Patrick's Centre & Grave & Trail

www.saintpatrickcentre.com



Taking the ferry (above) and Ards Peninsula scenery on the drive from Belfast.





Rate card for guided tours at Portico 2022-23

<i>Tour options</i>	Independent travellers £ per person	Single tour group visit £pp	4+ tour groups £pp	Minimum fee per tour group
<i>(1) Tour only</i>	10	9	8	£60
<i>(2)* Tour plus tea/coffee & scones</i>	15	12	10	£90
<i>(3)** Tour plus Irish produce picnic</i>	35	30	28	£200

***Option 2:**

Our tea and filter coffee is served in china teacups and scones are freshly baked.

****Option 3:**

Our Irish produce picnic is a cold buffet showcasing local Irish produce including delicious freshly baked wheaten bread, locally sourced Portavogie prawns and Irish cheeses.

NB Tours may be booked for any day and at any time except Sunday mornings. Tours must be booked in advance with at least one week's notice.

Concerts are all individually priced as advertised on our website.

Contact details:

Dr Verity Peet
The Portico of Ards
% 18 Steel Dickson Ave.,
Portaferry
County Down
Northern Ireland
BT22 1LE

Facebook: @porticoportaferry
Twitter: @porticoards
Instagram: @porticoportaferry

verity@porticoards.com