

SKY HIGH DUBLIN, WICKLOW, AND MEATH

AN AERIAL JOURNEY

Skyworks

Dublin is one of the world's most gracious cities, with a history stretching back to at least 841 AD when the Vikings set up a raiding camp at the mouth of the River Liffey. Imposing squares, magnificent public buildings and elegant terraces survive as testament to its Georgian grandeur. Yet the city has become as cosmopolitan as any in Europe, a thriving business and commercial centre with a vibrant cultural and night life (as befits the capital of a country where half of the population is under 30). Now with a population of a million in the greater Dublin area, open spaces are greatly valued, especially Phoenix Park, one of the world's largest enclosed urban parks.

Within striking distance of the city lie some glorious landscapes, country houses and historic sites. To the south in County Wicklow lie the Wicklow Mountains, rising up to 3927 feet at their highest point, and in their heart the ancient monastic site of Glendalough and the park and garden at Powerscourt. To the north west in County Meath, the Hill of Tara is one of the most symbolic and mystical sites in the whole of Ireland, while the town of Trim still bears witness through its medieval remains to its importance in the Middle Ages.

Seen from above, this spectacular mix of moorland and mountain and rich green pastures, mansions and monasteries and strong stone castles, and – in their midst – the bustling capital city, underlines why Ireland appeals so strongly to the heart as well as to the eye.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Skyworks is an independent production company specialising in top-end High Definition aerial filming. The company has become one of the world's leading HD aerial archivers. On the television side, Skyworks produces a range of factual programmes, varying from series about history, landscape and heritage to observational documentaries.

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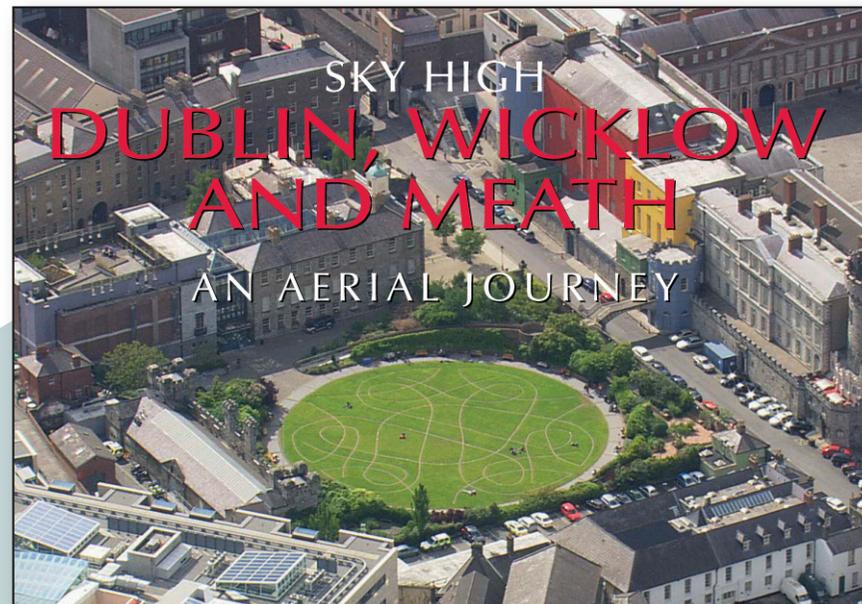
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Merrion Square was laid out by John Ensor in about 1762.



Trim Castle was founded in the twelfth century and is one of the largest medieval castles surviving in Europe.



A panorama of the south east of Dublin, out to Dublin Bay.



Drogheda, a Norman port, formerly one of Ireland's most important towns.



Glendalough is one of the most important religious sites in Ireland.



The Wicklow Mountains were severely glaciated which has helped to form their attractive mix of lakes, mountains and valleys.



Powerscourt House was begun in the 1730s. It was gutted by fire in 1974 but has been partially restored.



The gardens at Powerscourt are among the finest in Ireland.