

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Farmleigh House, Dublin

Meet the Librarian and explore the collection of Benjamin Guinness

A historic house holding important collections, an art gallery, a working farm, and the official Irish State guesthouse, Farmleigh House and Estate, located in an estate of seventy-eight acres situated to the north-west of Dublin's Phoenix Park. Farmleigh provides accommodation for visiting dignitaries and guests of the nation, most notably: Queen Elizabeth II in 2011, Emperor of Japan 2005, Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, in 2020.

Built by the famous Guinness brewing family, Farmleigh remains a unique representation of its heyday, the Edwardian period, and houses important artworks and furnishings, as well as the Benjamin Iveagh collection of rare books, bindings, and manuscripts, which is held in the Library. The collection is owned by Marsh's Library and the collection was donated to Marsh's Library in 2009 by the Guinness family.

The extensive pleasure grounds feature walled and sunken gardens, and scenic lakeside walks.

Private
Guided
Tour

Nuala Canny, OPW Librarian Bio:

BA in History and English (UCD), Masters in Library and Information Studies(UCD). 30 years experience as a librarian. Worked in the Law Society Library, Irish Management Institute, A&L Goodbody Solicitors and Portobello College before joining OPW main library in 2003, based in St Stephen's Green and was assigned to Benjamin Iveagh Library 5 years ago. Took over collections management in Farmleigh 4 years ago. She also oversees the Cholmeley Harrison Archive and Library in Emo Court.



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IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST™
Wander Through Time

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Luxury Experience

Meet the Librarian and explore the collection of Benjamin Guinness

Enjoy the unique sense of history in the beautiful library of Farmleigh House, once home to the famous Irish brewing family – the Guinnesses.

Soak up the smell of leather and old books while our expert librarian guides you through the world-class collection of rare manuscripts and books. Gain insight into the binding process that created these beautiful books.

The Benjamin Iveagh Library was amassed by Benjamin Guinness (1937-1992), 3rd Earl of Iveagh, a keen and astute collector of rare books, manuscripts and fine bindings. The collection amounts to more than 5,000 items and includes mostly rare Irish books and manuscripts. Among the historical manuscripts in the collection is a 13th century description of Ireland, an Irish-language primer prepared for Queen Elizabeth I. All major Irish writers are represented in the collection, including James Joyce, Seamus Heaney, Samuel Beckett, Jonathan Swift, and includes first editions of Ulysses and Gulliver's Travels.

A particular strength of the collection is in fine Irish bindings from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Together with a large number of 'Livres d'Art' – books with beautiful illustrations by famous artists. This collection is as truly beautiful as it is educational and entertaining.

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Booking Conditions: Bookings must be confirmed by email 2 weeks in advance. Availability Mondays to Fridays and some weekends April to December.

Payment: Payment is required in full in advance. Refunds will only be given with 48 hours notification of cancellation.

Availability: 1st April – 11th December approx.

Languages: English.

Facilities on site: Exhibitions, toilets, disabled toilet, coach park, gardens.

Inclusions:

- Introduction to Farmleigh – 15 minutes.
- Private Library Experience – 45 minutes with OPW Librarian, Nuala Canny.
- Exclusive introduction to the Farmleigh House and the world famous collection Benjamin Iveagh Collection.
- Let Nuala know in advance if you are interested in a particular writer or period in history and she can select an appropriate manuscript for you to view.
- Drop off and collection to the main door of Farmleigh House.

Supplementary Options:

- Full private guided tour (including Presidential Suite and other floors), exclusive access to important Irish art. (45 - 60 minutes)
- Library and house tours are suitable for children aged 10 years and above.

Group size: Min. 1 – Max. 10

Duration: 60 to 90 minutes

Mobility: Universal Access. Library Experience is on ground floor of house. Ramp at front of house south side of house. Drop off and collect to front of house for Unique Experience visitors.

Pricing: 1 person €200, 1-3 €150 per person, 4-10 €100 per person. Suitable for children from 10 years and above, €50 per child.

Access & Parking: Farmleigh is accessed via the Phoenix Park, Dublin. Drop off and collection at front door of Farmleigh House for Unique Experience visitors.

Nearby: Dublin City Centre, Dublin Zoo, Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Walled Victorian Gardens, Kilmainham Gaol, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Castletown House, Dublin Castle.

Information on Public Tours: Public tours take place daily at various times throughout the day. These take place in parts of the house.

