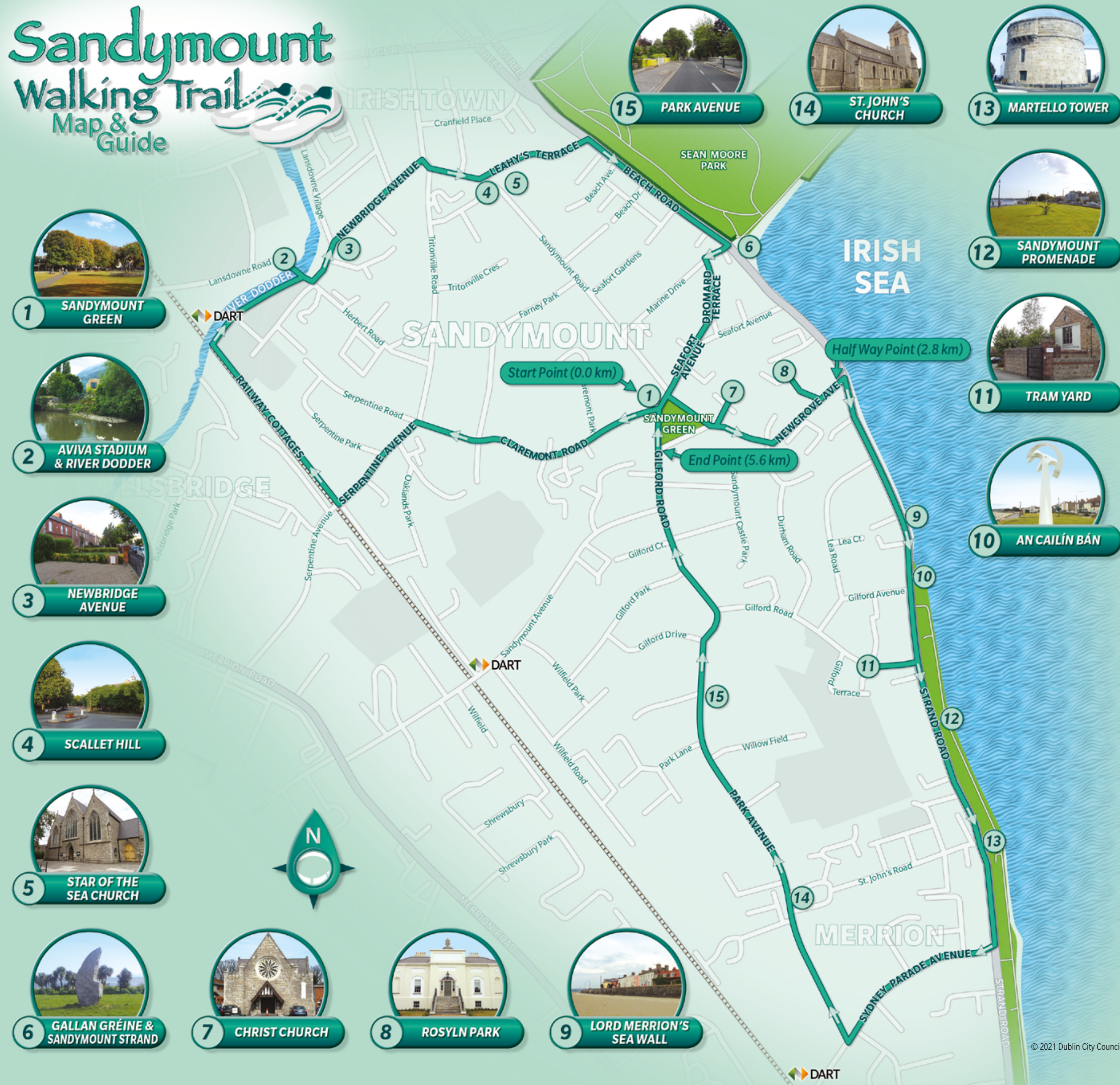
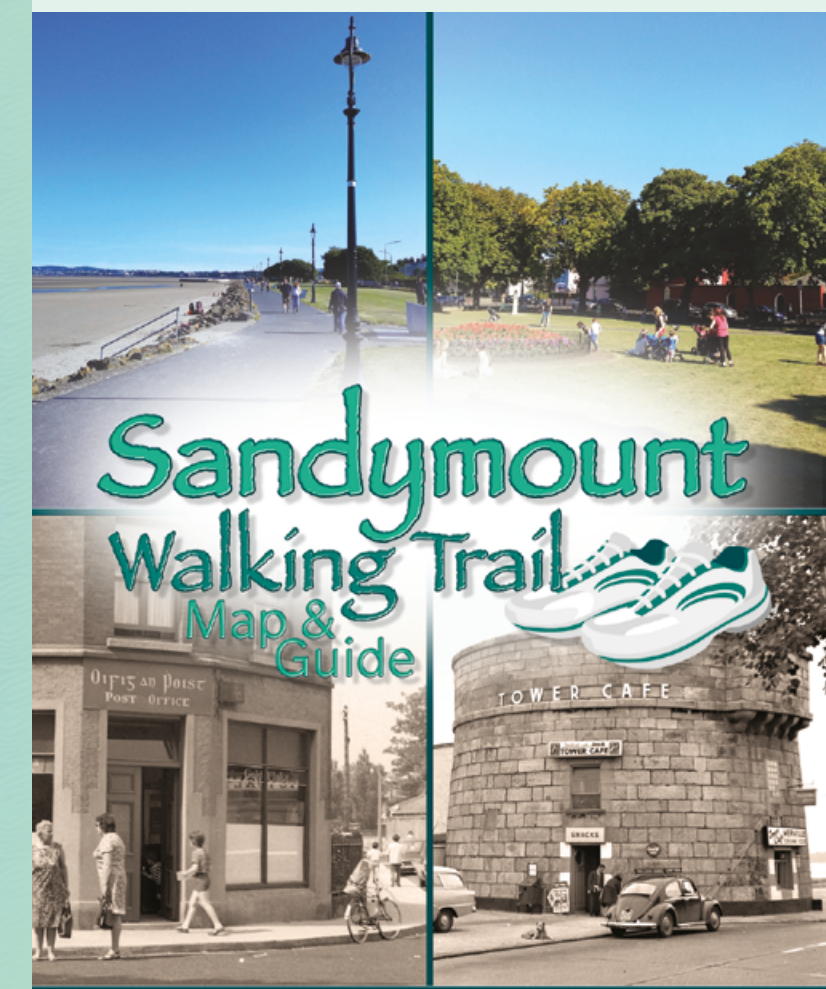


Sandymount Walking Trail

Map & Guide



Design & Production: Kaelieon Design (01 835 3881 / www.kaelieon.ie)
 groups, log on to www.letswalkandtalk.ie.
 For details on Dublin City Council's programme of walking tours and weekly walking
 available from Books on the Green, Sandymount.
 Further reading on Sandymount: 'A Social and Natural History of Sandymount, Irishtown, Ringsend' and 'The Roads to Sandymount, Irishtown, Ringsend'.
 Photographs by Joe McCarthy and Valerie Jennings. Sketches by Valerie Jennings.
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Sandymount Walking Trail

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Sandymount is an historic urban village on Dublin Bay with a particularly well-developed sense of place despite being only 3km from Dublin city centre. Its seaside location, variety of architectural styles, and renowned village character, focused around Sandymount Green, have long made this attractive suburb a desirable place to live. The area which became Sandymount was granted in 1381 to John Fitzwilliam, Lord Merrion. The Fitzwilliam estates were inherited by the Earl of Pembroke in 1833.



Sandymount Village came to prominence as a seaside resort in the 1820s as Dublin grew and prosperous visitors sought clean air, wide views and a relaxed holiday atmosphere away from the city. A major catalyst to the expansion of the Village was the construction of the Dublin to Kingstown Railway in 1834, Ireland’s first railway line.

Sandymount’s road layout derives from a network of small roads that developed through the fields, marshes and sand dunes from the 15th to the 18th centuries to link the then small settlement of Brickfield Town to the surrounding neighbourhoods of Merrion, Irishtown and Ballsbridge.

James Joyce lived in Sandymount briefly. Notably he stayed in Dromard Terrace on 16 June 1904, the day he used for his famous novel *Ulysses*. Joyce placed the characters *Stephen Daedalus*, *Leopold Bloom* and *Gerty MacDowell* on the strand endowing Sandymount with a literary air which persists to this day.

The fact that the Village has remained almost wholly residential, except for the retail centre around the Green, is remarkable and is a distinct and highly valued aspect of Sandymount’s character.

Sandymount now enjoys the protection of an Architectural Conservation Area for the Green and its nearby roads.



Sandymount is situated on the southern shore of Dublin Bay between Irishtown and Merrion. It is served by the Dart and by Dublin Bus routes 1, 18 and 47. It is a 40 minute walk from the city centre.

“The view over the bay, the wide outlook over waves and shore and shipping is very heart-lifting and head-clearing.”

Seamus Heaney



“Am I walking into eternity along Sandymount strand? Crush, crack, crick, crick.”

Ulysses
James Joyce

Welcome to the village of Sandymount!

This walking trail starts at Sandymount Green in the heart of the village. It takes a loop northwards to the River Dodder and back to the Green. Then it loops out to the sea past the Martello Tower and back along Park Avenue.

The trail is about 5.6km and should take under 90 minutes at a leisurely pace.

1 SANDYMOUNT GREEN

A defining view of Sandymount Village is Sandymount Green with its surrounding buildings ranging from the castellated Sandymount Castle, large Georgian redbrick terraces and Christ Church to small shops, pubs and restaurants. This small public park is maintained by Dublin City Council and is used for informal recreation by residents of all ages.

Sandymount Green was a common in the 1700s. It was enclosed by wrought iron railings and laid out as a public park in the early 1800s. There is a bronze bust of the poet and Nobel laureate William Butler Yeats who was born on Sandymount Avenue and lived for a time in the castle. The horse chestnut trees around the green were planted by the Corbet family in the 1800s.

2 AVIVA STADIUM & RIVER DODDER

The Aviva Stadium is the home of the Irish Rugby Union and Republic of Ireland football teams. There has been a stadium on this site since 1872 when Henry Dunlop founded Lansdowne Football Club and that club has continued to play rugby union ever since at the grounds. Wanderers Football Club, founded in 1870, joined Lansdowne at the grounds in 1880. The stadium was rebuilt in 2010 and tours of the building are available.

The nearby River Dodder rises on Kippure in the Dublin mountains and runs 26km to the River Liffey at Ringsend. This part of the river was embanked by Councillor William Vavasour in 1798.

3 NEWBRIDGE AVENUE

James Joyce’s novel *Ulysses* has a vivid description (Episode 6 - Hades) of Paddy Dignam’s funeral departing from No. 9 Newbridge Avenue and traversing the city to Glasnevin Cemetery.

Robert Haig established the Dodderbank Distillery in 1795 and by 1802 it had become one of the largest distilleries in Dublin. He later installed one of the first Coffey stills and production reached 330,000 gallons annually. It closed around 1850. The stone from the buildings was used to make Herbert Road and Newbridge Avenue.

4 SCALLET HILL

The northern boundary of Sandymount was originally called Scallet Hill - part of the manor of Baggot Rath. The land was transferred by Robert Bagod to William Fitzwilliam in 1380. Scallet Hill is a fine example of a post-glacial raised beach. There were furze covered sand dunes and rabbit warrens at the northern end of the coast while the southern end - part of the older manor of Merrion - was marshy with a sea lough.



5 STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church was built in 1853 by J. J. McCarthy of the Pugin neo-Gothic school. A major setback occurred at Christmas in 1852 when violent storms toppled the front and rear gable walls of the uncompleted building. Nearby on Leahy’s Terrace, steps led to Sandymount Strand where the *Nausicaa* episode in *Ulysses* was set in 1904. It was here behind the church that Mr. Leopold Bloom observed Gerty MacDowell as described in particular fashion by James Joyce.

6 GALLAN GRÉINE & SANDYMOUNT STRAND

This part of Sandymount Strand was reclaimed by Dublin Corporation between the 1940s and the 1980s. Playing fields and seaside paths lead to the Irishtown Nature



Park and the Great South Wall. From here to the Red Lighthouse and back is a walk of some 10km. The Strand is one of Ireland’s prime Special Protection Areas for winter wading birds, particularly light bellied Brent geese. The Gallan Gréine marker stone was carved by Cliodna Cussen and dedicated to James Joyce in 1983. A sighting stone stands 300 metres to the west and when aligned with the marker stone to the east indicates the winter solstice rising over Killiney Hill on 21st December each year. The face of this stone is also a sundial.

7 CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church is a United Presbyterian and Methodist church built in 1864 by architect Alfred G. Jones. It has a simple Gothic Revival design with a decorative rose window in the west facade. The porch was added as a First World War memorial by G. Beckett. The interior features stained glass windows by Evie Hone.

8 ROSLYN PARK

Roslyn Park is a beautiful 18th century villa which was designed by architect James Gandon for his friend, the landscape painter William Ashford. Located on Newgrove Avenue the building is now called Roslyn Park. Ashford lived in the villa from 1788 until his death in 1824. James Gandon was a leading architect of the day who designed many of Dublin’s iconic buildings including the Custom House and the Four Courts.

9 LORD MERRION’S SEA WALL

In the 17th century Lord Merrion established a brick works along the shore which provided bricks for many of the fine buildings in Dublin’s Georgian squares. By 1760 the original settlement was shown as Brickfield Town on Rocque’s map. In 1791 Lord Merrion commenced construction of the Sea Wall to protect his brick works. The sea wall and embankment, along with the roadway on top, encouraged people to build seaside villas overlooking the bay.

10 AN CAILÍN BÁN

The monumental sculpture, *Awaiting the Mariner* - *An Cailín Bán*, by the Mexican artist Sebastien was unveiled by the Mexican President Vicente Fox in November 2002. This was the first work by a Mexican artist to be placed permanently in Dublin, symbolising the friendship between the Irish and Mexican people.

11 TRAM YARD

Horse drawn trams to Dublin were introduced in 1872 by the Dublin Tramway Company, whose stables and Tram Yards were built on Gilford Road. The cottages which were built for the tramway workers in 1894 remain on Gilford Terrace today.

12 SANDYMOUNT PROMENADE

Stretching for 1km along Strand Road, Sandymount Promenade is a popular walking place and provides outstanding views over Sandymount Strand to Poolbeg, Irishtown Nature Park, Howth and Dún Laoghaire.

13 MARTELLO TOWER

The Martello Tower was built on the strand in 1805 as part of a defence system to protect against a Napoleonic invasion. This tower is larger than others along the coast because it had two cannons. The Merrion swimming baths on the Strand were constructed in 1883, becoming a major attraction. An elegant pier once provided access from the promenade but this feature closed in 1923. All that remains today are the dilapidated concrete walls on the beach.

14 ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

The first church in Sandymount, St. John’s Church, was built in 1850. It is an unusual, if not unique, building. It is a replica of a 13th century church in Normandy thus making it the only example of Neo-Norman architecture in Dublin. The church was founded as a trustee Church of Ireland by Sydney Herbert, brother of the Earl of Pembroke. It has no parish but is a landmark in Sandymount. There is still a pew reserved for the Earl of Pembroke in St. John’s.

15 PARK AVENUE

Park Avenue is home to a number of cricket and rugby grounds including the Pembroke Cricket Club, the Monkstown Rugby Club and the Railway Union Sports Club incorporating clubs for bowls, cricket, hockey, rugby, soccer and tennis. Park Avenue, like its famous namesake in New York City, is noted for its high property prices. Many specimen trees can be seen along this leafy road.