

Belleek

POTTERY

VISITOR CENTRE

*Celebrating
168 years*



GUIDED
TOURS

EXHIBITIONS
MUSEUM

RESTAURANT
GARDENS

A man with grey hair, wearing a striped polo shirt, a white apron, and glasses on his head, is smiling and holding a long wooden tray filled with a row of white ceramic jugs. He is standing in a pottery workshop with shelves of other pottery in the background.

a Unique Heritage

Belleek Pottery is the oldest working pottery in Ireland and holds a very special place in the cultural and commercial heritage of the island of Ireland. Established in 1857 the pottery building is a fine example of the Neo-Georgian architecture of the mid 19th century.

Situated on the idyllic banks of Lough Erne, Belleek Pottery is a perfect stop whilst touring the Wild Atlantic Way.

Belleek is a popular attraction for groups visiting the North West of Ireland, located only 20 minutes from Donegal Town to the north and 30 minutes from Enniskillen to the east.

Celebrating 168 years of expert craftsmanship, Belleek is at the forefront of design in Ireland. Sixteen individual artisans, hand craft each piece of Belleek Pottery, a process that has changed very little since 1857. Concept and design begin the process, which leads to a mould being made for every specific piece of china. Belleek is famous throughout the world, with collectors worldwide.

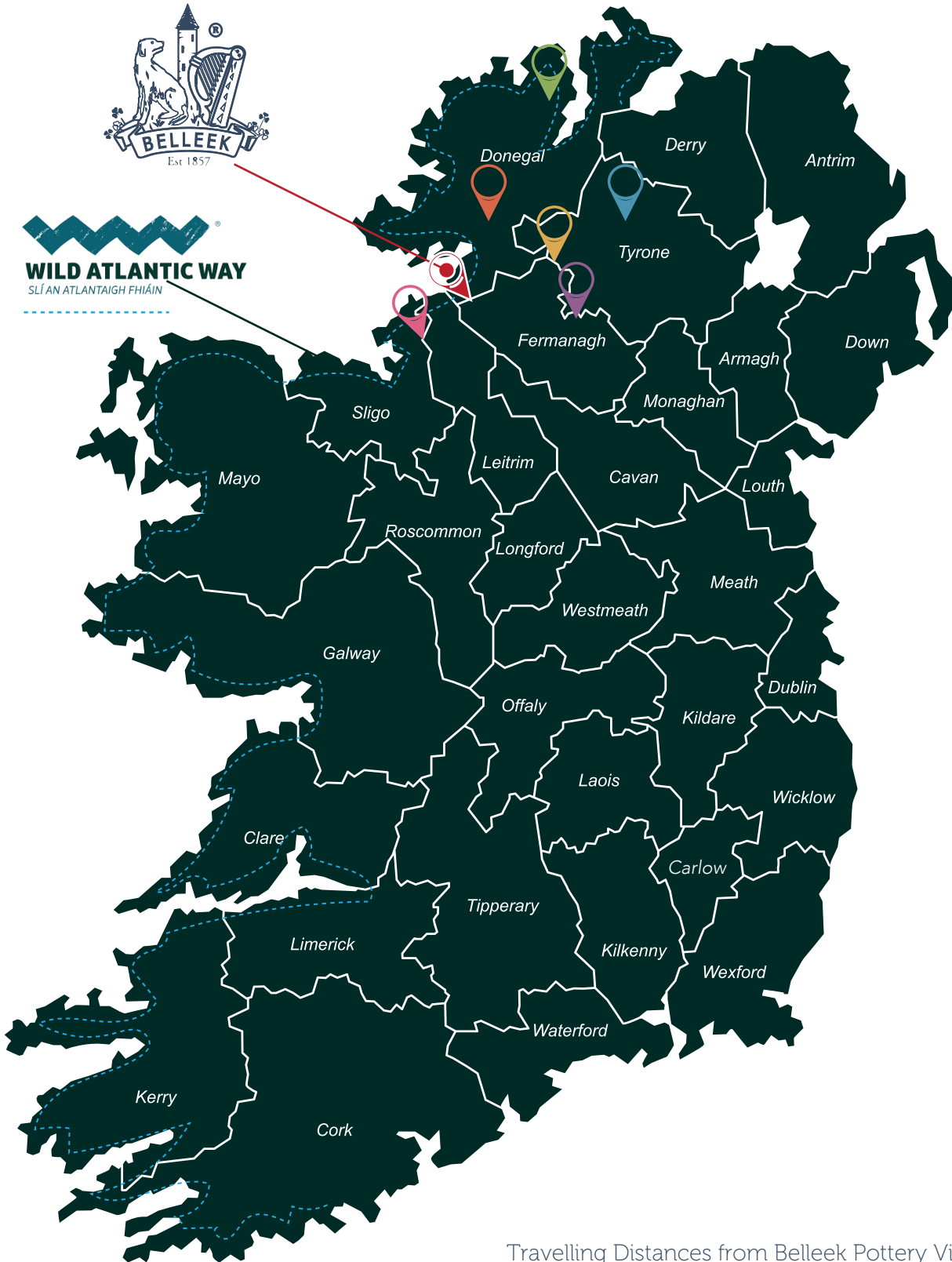
One of our most famous visitors was the 5th Earl Spencer, the Great Grand Uncle of the late Princess Diana, who visited the pottery on the 12th May 1870.

As one of Ireland's most popular visitor attractions and voted the NITB 'Best Visitor Experience 2014', Belleek Pottery presents visitors with a living history tour of industrial heritage, design and craftsmanship.

Belleek Pottery holds a Tourism N.I. 4* Visitor Attraction classification.

2025 will be our 168th year in operation. We believe strongly in our indigenous craft and the dedicated artists that have worked inherently at the pottery and passed the skills from one family generation to another. At present we have third generations of local families that still work at Belleek, now as master craftspeople, this is why Belleek is as popular today as it was in 1857 and truly is a visitor experience like no other.

Centrally Located



Travelling Distances from Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre

Castlecoole National Trust
40.2km / 25miles

Donegal Castle
29.2km / 18miles

Enniskillen Castle Museums
40.2km / 25miles

Florencecourt National Trust
39.1km / 24miles

Glenveagh National Park
98km / 61miles

Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
39.1km / 24miles

Ulster American Folk Park
74.5km / 46miles

W.B Yeats's Grave Drumcliffe
41.6km / 26miles





Mastercraftsmanship



Visitor Participation on Tour

Visitor Experiences

Guided Tours

Visitors are led through the factory by our specially trained tour guides. Visitors will learn, see and participate in the tour itself. Tours last 30 minutes.

Belleek Showroom

The Belleek showroom is a modern retail outlet, displaying the complete product range of Belleek products for sale. From tableware collections to basketware, giftware and exclusive pieces. Goods can be packed and posted for convenience. Currencies accepted.

Belleek Restaurant

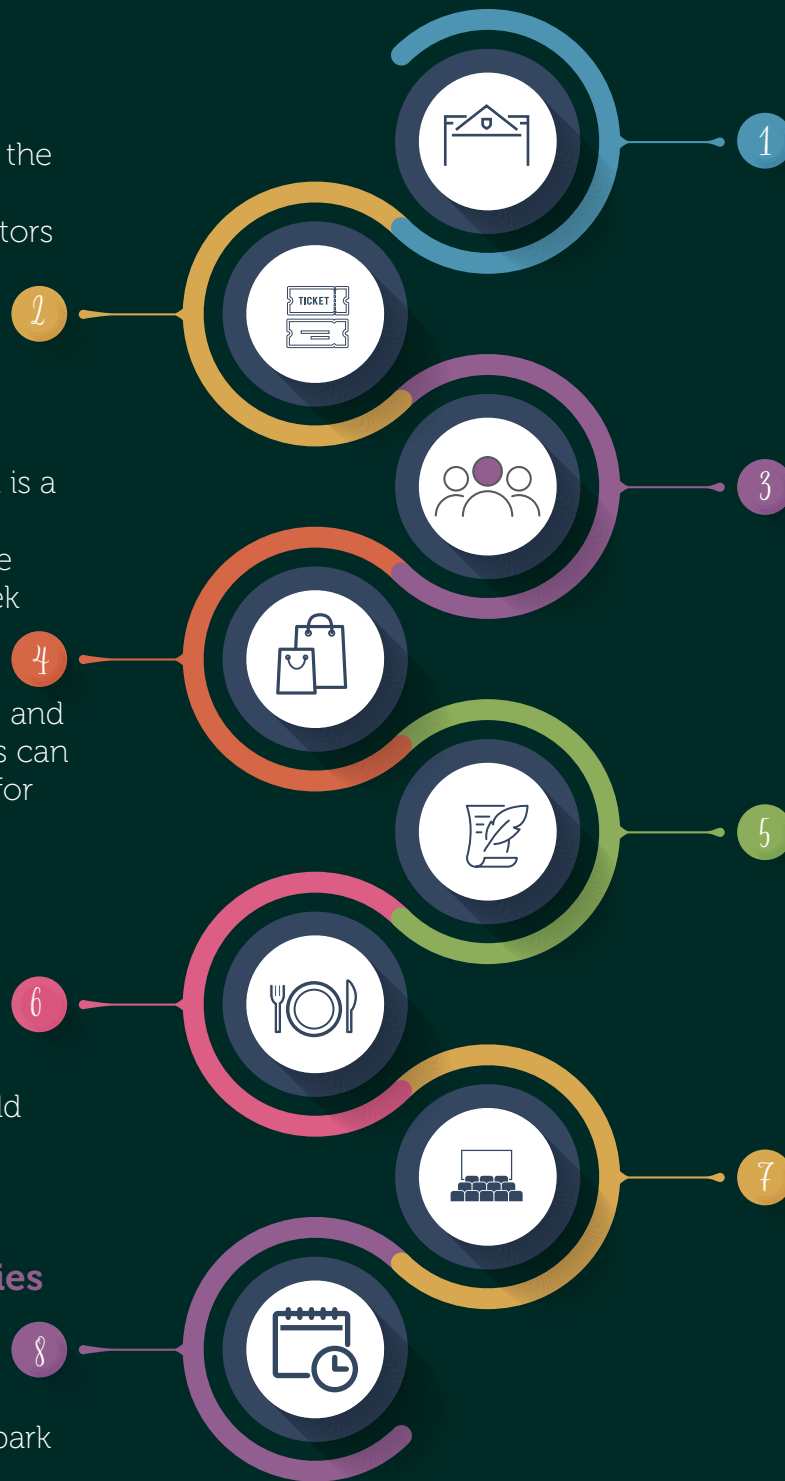
Our 90 seated, self-service restaurant offers a selection of hot and cold food, all served on Belleek tableware.

Tour Group Facilities

Special car park adjacent to Visitor Centre for less able guests. 8 space coach park with valeting facilities. 100 space car park. Open all year round.

COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Regular cleaning, hand washing and hygiene products available on site. Entrance and exit doors to the Visitor Centre. Social distancing for visitors and staff.



Visitor Centre

On arrival visitors are welcomed into our large, spacious centre, where the bell rings when it is time for the tour.

Visitor Participation

Visitors are invited to participate in the breaking of pieces of Belleek that have not passed the quality control stage.

Museum & Exhibitions

The Belleek Museum houses one of the oldest and finest collections of pottery in Ireland. More than 100 pieces are displayed dating back to 1857. 'ONE SIXTY', is a photographic exhibition of 160 images reflecting 160 years of Belleek.

Audio Visual Presentation

A 20 minute audiovisual presentation in our 50 seater theatre will inform you of the rich history of the pottery from its beginnings in the mid 1800's right the way through to the present day. The audiovisual presentation is available in English, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Dutch and Japanese.



Hands-on Belleek Experience



Hands-on Belleek Experience

In response to a demand from the tour operator and incentive travel organiser market, we offer a premium guided pottery tour product for small, pre-booked tour groups. Approximately 2 hours in duration it is the ideal option for groups with 5-10 participants.

Called the '*Hands-on Belleek Experience*', this exclusive tour programme focuses on giving visitors a truly 'hands on' understanding of Ireland's oldest pottery.

The focal point of the tour will be a practical demonstration of 'the art of Belleek' by a Master Crafter followed by the opportunity for tour members to try their hand at creating their own unique piece of Belleek. Participation includes modelling of parian china flowers to putting the finishing touches to the painting of a plate or the fixing of a handle to a Belleek tea cup.

This exclusive tour gives visitors a unique insight into the art of Belleek and a forever keepsake that will become a family heirloom.

Following the tour the handicraft will be kiln fired and shipped with any purchases to their homes as a lasting memento of their time spent in Belleek.

Famous Visitors to Belleek



King Charles III



Taoiseach
Micheál Martin



Former British Prime
Minister Teresa May

Belleek Product Selection

At Belleek Pottery we craft a range ornaments as well as gift and homeware. The delicately intricate work that is involved in our handmade baskets is world-famous. Below is just a selection of what we offer. You will find a much more comprehensive display of products in our Pottery Showroom. With free packing and postage, you can easily pick up a gift or two in our showroom and after your trip, you will have a beautiful piece to remind you of your visit to Belleek Pottery.



Shamrock Collection



Thatched Cottage Luminaire



Claddagh Mug & Tray Set



Classic Recipe Spoon



Claddagh Wall Plaque



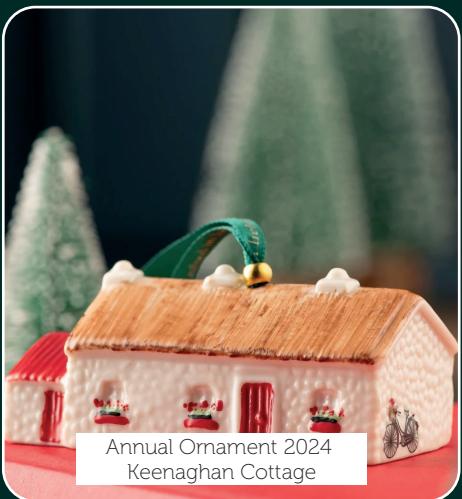
Set of 4 mini vases



Classic Annual Basket 2024 Daisy Chain



Wild Irish Hedgerow Summer Basket



Annual Ornament 2024 Keenaghan Cottage

Visitor Centre Admission Fees

	Adults	Seniors
F.I.T	£9.00	£7.00
Group Rate per person	£5.00	
Hands on Belleek Experience	£50.00 pp	
U12 Years	FREE	

Restaurant Tariff (Group Rates Only)

Tea / coffee with scone	£6.50
Soup, Sandwiches, Traybakes, Tea, Coffee	£12.50 pp
2 Course Lunch with Tea/Coffee	£22.00 pp

(Euro prices available on request)

Tour Information

Tours: Monday-Friday 10.30am - 12.15pm and 1.45pm - 3.00pm.

Tours available every half hour.

Children under 12 years old, tour free.

Parties of 10 or more, please telephone prior to visiting.

There are no tours on St Patricks Day, Good Friday & Easter Monday.

Please Note: Last tour 3pm.

There are no tours at weekends.

Closed Christmas and New Year.

Opening Times

	Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January-March	10.00 - 15.00	Closed	Closed
April-September	09.00 - 16.00	10.00 -15.00	13.00 - 16.00
October-December	10.00 - 15.00	10.00- 15.00	Closed

Contact Us

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 www.facebook.com/PotteryVC

 [@belleekpottery](https://twitter.com/belleekpottery)

Belleek
FINE PARIAN CHINA

Our Contribution to Sustainability

Community Contribution

Making an economic contribution to a rural community has always been a core value for Belleek Pottery. In fact since its very beginnings, the founders of the pottery aimed to create opportunity and improvement to the local economy.

Today for every transaction that takes place in the visitor centre, this can be directly related back to our community, through the employment of our staff, the wages they are paid and how this money is put directly back into the local economy. We employ more than 150 people, this sustains approximately 105 families representing +/-12% of the local population.



Belleek Village Potters Bench 2024

Our design team and visitor centre have recently been involved in the design and creation of a Potters Bench which is now located as a piece of public art in the heart of the village of Belleek. Celebrating our story, and acknowledging the community, the bench creates a strong visual connection between the pottery and the village. In addition, an interactive mural adjacent to the Potters Bench presents a fun way for visitors to capture a memory of their visit to Belleek Pottery.

Waste

Our entire waste product generated directly from production such as plaster of paris moulds, clay fired rings and fired items that are rejected for quality reasons, are screened, crushed and recycled as hard fill. The end product is used mostly in the construction industry.

Our waste cardboard and plastic are separated and baled on site.

These bales are collected at regular intervals and sent to a mill for recycling.

Our mixed waste is sorted at Erne Skip Services & Recycling in Fermanagh.

Our third party waste management partners are located within an hour's drive of the pottery enabling us to ensure the journey to process our waste is kept to a minimum.

Solar

For over 165 years, Belleek Pottery has progressed with the continues change in meeting its energy needs in the most efficient way possible. From the coal-fired kilns of the 19th century with a mill wheel to grind the raw materials to produce slip, to a water turbine in the 1930s using the River Erne for power and then progressing to electric fired kilns in the 1950s, Belleek Pottery has now moved to 21st century with investment in self-generation through solar PV.

An optimised 150kWp system has been installed on the factory roof comprising 330 solar photovoltaic modules. Typically on an annual basis this provides approximately 30% of the business' total energy needs.

An additional and much appreciated benefit of our new system has been a reduction in our carbon output by 18 tonnes per year. This has the same effect as planting almost 3,500 trees.