



26 COUNTY ANTRIM DUNLUCE CASTLE

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.6km ▶ Time: 3-4 hours ▶ Grade: Easy



Distant views of the stunning Dunluce Castle.



PHOTO: DAVE KIRKPATRICK

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Free parking at Portrush Harbour BT56 8DF, grid ref D855408

Is it for me?

This one-way route follows the Ulster Way through some of the best panoramas in Northern Ireland. It offers a good footpath all the way with great coastal views of the Causeway Coast in County Antrim
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town

Portrush

Refreshments

Shops at Portrush, Dunluce Castle and Portballintrae

Public toilets

Portrush Ramore Head, Dunluce Castle and Portballintrae Harbour.

Public transport

Ulsterbus 132 Portrush-Bushmills; www.translink.co.uk

Maps

Ordnance Survey OSNI Activity Map Causeway Coast 1:25000, or OS Discoverer Map 4 (1:50000)

CHOSEN BY...



DAVE KIRKPATRICK

Situated between the popular coastal resorts of Portrush and Portballintrae is the striking medieval ruin of Dunluce Castle. Perched on the edge of the North Antrim coastal cliffs, the present castle was built in the early 1500's by the MacQuillan family, occupying the site of a 13th century stonghold and an eariler fort dating to the time of the Vikings. Siezed by the ambitious MacDonnell Clan in the 1550's, it would become the seat of the Earls of County Antrim in the 17th century, when its kitchens famously fell into the sea in 1639. It was later abandoned in 1660 and has been in ruin ever since. Some say you can hear the howl of the ghost of Maeve Roe (the McQuillan Banshee) on stormy nights, who was locked up in the tower!

1 Start

From Portrush harbour, turn L uphill onto Ramore Ave. Take the road L which leads behind houses and onto coastal track. Follow the track around to Ramore Head which offers cliff views and rock pools to explore. Continue around past the carpark and along the footpath passing Portandubh Harbour, the Portrush Countryside Centre and Nature Reserve and Arcadia Café.

2 1½ miles/2.3km

The route then turns L entering Curran Strand a 3km long beach. At the end of the Strand turn R to the car park at White Rocks, so named because of its limestone cliffs. Follow the small road uphill as it winds up to Dunluce Rd (A2). Turn L and follow the good footpath along the coastal road with views of The Giant's Causeway in the distance. ➡

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► OSNI Activity Map Causeway Coast 1:25000 ► Buy maps at: mapshop.nidirect.gov.uk



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

DON'T MISS...



The walk is unmissable, but to reward yourself why not take time to visit the Bushmills Distillery, the world's oldest whiskey distillery.

3 3/4 miles/5.3km

Just after 1km you come to Magheracross View Point. Take the time to walk to end of small car park to get a great view of Dunluce castle. Continue along Dunluce Rd until you come to small crossroads with a sign for Dunluce Castle to the left. Go L and follow small lane which

leads to Dunluce castle.

Although there is a charge to enter the castle, you can walk around the castle going down the steps which leads to the end of the cliff. Also for another perspective leave the steps at the bottom and turn right to go down a grassy slope leading to the coast. From here look back up at the castle and another great photo opportunity!

4 4/4 miles/7.6km

From the castle, turn L out of the entrance and follow lane L back onto Dunluce Rd. Turn L following footpath along road. After about 1.5km you will see a sign for B145 Portballintrae. Ignore this and instead

continue along Dunluce Rd (A2) following signs for Bushmills along the Causeway Coastal Route. You will reach a small group of houses on your right, and a blue sign for the "Ulster Way" on your left. Go L and cross fields following track into Portballintrae. Continue past the harbour along Beach Rd, to the car park marking the finish. Bus 132 to start. [CW](http://www.cwwalking.com)

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey