

Hill of Tara

USER GUIDE



Tracklist

- 1 **Welcome, introduction, and practicalities** (0.00)
Entrance
- 2 **Why Tara was so important** (2.50)
On the summit
- 3 **The passage tomb and 'Tara boy'** (7.21)
Mound of the Hostages
- 4 **The ceremonial entrance to Tara** (12.15)
Bottom of the Banqueting Hall
- 5 **The sanctuary found in 1998** (17.35)
Top of the Banqueting Hall
- 6 **So you want to be High King?** (21.47)
Outside the Fort of the Kings
- 7 **The Iron Age sanctuary** (25.51)
At the Fort of the Kings
- 8 **The Stone of Destiny** (30.06)
The Inauguration Mound
- 9 **A royal residence** (A Royal Residence)
Cormac's House
- 10 **The Croppies grave and O'Connell's monster meeting** (38.21)
Rath Loegaire
- 11 **Raiders of the lost Ark, and Roman Ireland** (43.32)
Rath of the Synods
- 12 **Battle of Patrick and the pagans** (48.25)
The churchyard
- 13 **A golden age of high kings and heroes** (53.15)
On the summit
- 14 **The wild west and tragic legends** (57.47)
The Sloping Trenches & Ráith Gráinne
- 15 **Sacrifices, horses and high Kings** (1:02:06)
- 16 **Place names, and the meaning of Tara** (1:05:32)
- 17 **Skreen – Tara's blind twin and the Gabhra Valley** (1:09:00)
- 18 **A sacred well, and farewell** (1:14:16)
St Patrick's well

The Monuments

GAELIC	ENGLISH	USE	DATE
Teamhair, Temair	Tara		Mesolithic-Modern >4000 BC – 21st C
Duma na nGiall	Mound of the Hostages	Burial	Neolithic & Bronze Age used 3000–1500 BC
	'Great Timber Circle'	Ritual	Neolithic (c. 3000 BC)
Tech Midchúarta	Banqueting Hall	Ritual	Bronze? or Iron Age? ?1000 BC – AD 400
Clóenfherta	Sloping Trenches (2)	Burial	Late Bronze/Iron Age 600 BC – AD 400
Ráith Gráinne	Gráinne's Rath	Burial	ditto
An Forrad	Inauguration Mound	Burial, ritual	Neolithic? Bronze Age-Iron Age-Medieval
Ráith na Rí	Fort of the Kings	Ritual	Iron Age c.600 BC – AD 400
Ráith na Senad	Rath of the Synods	Burial, ritual. Residence?	ditto
Tech Cormaic	Cormac's House	Occasional royal residence	Medieval AD 700 – 900
	St Patrick's Church	Religion, burial, tourism	1822–

Dates are approximate, and many are uncertain (indicated by a ?) as most monuments have not been excavated.



- 3 Decorated stone in the Mound of the Hostages passage tomb. Laser 3-D image. © Discovery Programme

How to use this guide

Allow at least 90 minutes for the full tour, but you can stop the commentary at any point, and resume later. We recommend that you stop walking to listen to each track, on account of the rough terrain.

At the end of each track you will hear the signal to pause your player; walk to the next point on the tour, and resume the commentary.

Tracks 1-12 and 14 are about specific locations on the hill. Tracks 13, 15-17 give additional information on topics such as horse sacrifices, the meaning of 'Tara', Skreen's history, and the surrounding countryside.

You can listen to those while exploring the hill, or later at your leisure.

Advisors
Dr Conor Newman
(Archaeology, NUI Galway)

Dr Edel Bhreathnach
(Micheál Ó Cléirigh
Institute, UCD).

Music
Prehistoric music played
on replica Bronze Age
horns by Simon O'Dwyer
www.prehistoricmusic.com

Incidental music 'The
Bishop and the King' by
Felipe Adorno; 'Mountain
Lake' by Elliot Simons.

Mixed
Tinpot Productions

Sound Production
Twintrack Media

Design
Carton LeVert

Thanks
We thank the Discovery
Programme for permission to
use the images.

Supported by
The Heritage Council

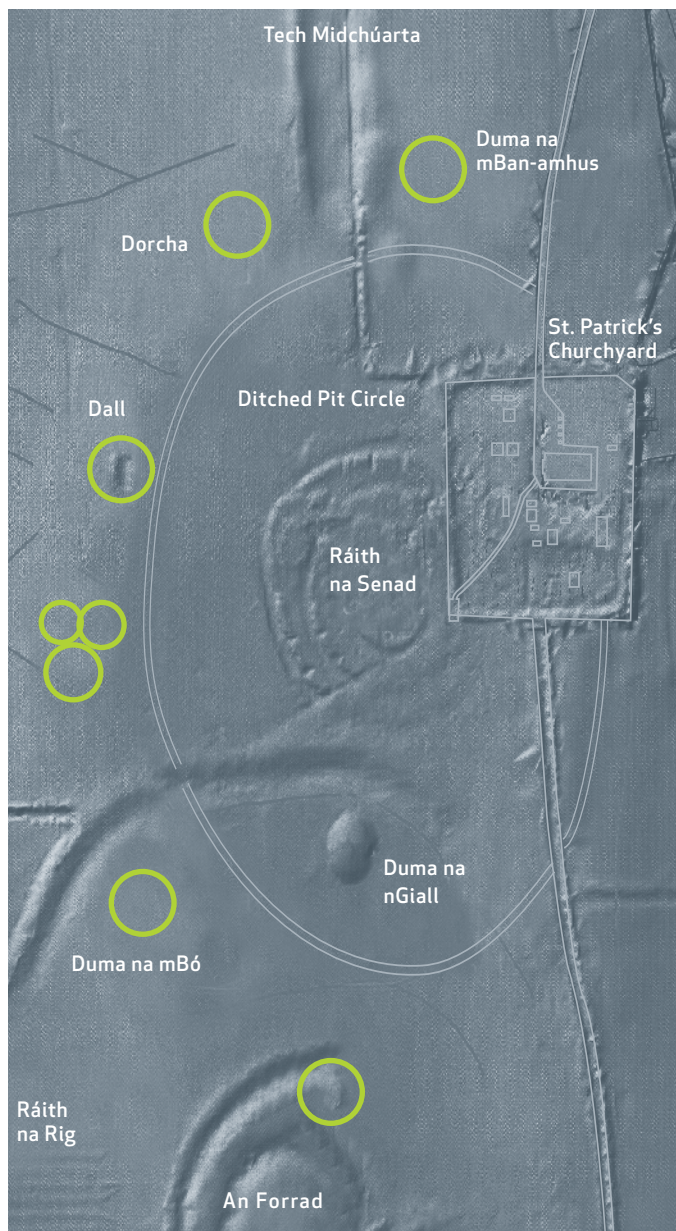
Written and Narrated
Mary Mulvihill
© Mary Mulvihill &
Ingenious Guides Ltd 2010

www.ingeniousireland.ie
feedback@ingeniousireland.ie

Disclaimer

Ingenious Ireland has made every effort to ensure that the information for this tour is correct, but we assume no responsibility for any errors or any hazards along the route. Users of this audio guide are responsible for their own safety at all times.





5 6 The Neolithic 'great timber circle' and satellite burials, revealed by geophysics. Could the trio of burials be the druids Blocc, Blucne and Mael? © Discovery Programme/Conor Newman 2007



7 8 9 11 The Inauguration Mound with the 'Lia Fáil' / Stone of Destiny (**upper centre**), and Cormac's House (**lower centre**). The Mound of the Hostages (**top, still within the Fort of the Kings**), and part of the Rath of the Synods (**extreme top right**). © Fáilte Ireland.



14 Some of Tara's greatest legends are associated with the two Sloping Trenches (**bottom**) and Rath Gráinne (**top**). © Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.



3 The Mound of the Hostages. © Ingenious Ireland



8 The 'Stone of Destiny'. © Ingenious Ireland

Practicalities

The Hill of Tara is an open site and admission is free.

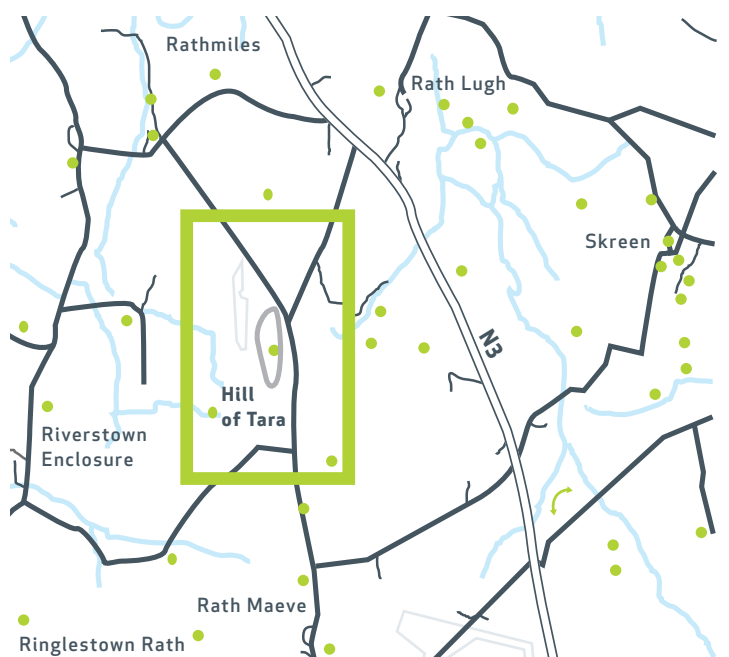
Dress appropriately as the ground is rough and uneven, and the hill is exposed and can be cool even in summer. Watch where you walk and wear appropriate shoes. There is limited access for people with impaired mobility.

Binoculars can be useful, and a camera.

Make a day of it

Why not visit nearby Skreen (Skryne) village, and other monuments such as Rath Maeve, Riverstown, Ringlestown, Rath Miles and Rath Lugh, and the ruins at Kells and Trim. Further afield are the royal sites of Teltown and Tlaghta/Ward Hill (Meath), Uisneach (Westmeath) and Croghaun (Offaly).

You can also see objects from Tara on display in the National Museum, Dublin.



Tara Landscape and location © The Discovery Programme