

Ruins of Dunluce Castle

Located on the Antrim coast of Northern Ireland, not far from the Giants Causeway, are the ruins of Dunluce Castle.

Dunluce Castle has been a site of historic battles, a movie (Jackie Chan's - The Medallion) and a tragic fable. Despite all this, the magnificent views alone are enough reason to make Dunluce a stop on your visit.

Setting 100 feet above the ocean on a pinnacle of basalt rock, and isolated from the coast by a 20-foot chasm, Dunluce Castle must have looked very formidable to its attackers. Some of the Castle remains at Dunluce may date back to the 1200s' AD but much of the Castle was built after that time. At the end of the 1500s' and through the 1600s', extensive additions were made to its fortifications and residential quarters.



It is thought Richard de Burgh may have ordered the construction of the first Dunluce castle. What is known, is the Castle was taken in battle around 1565 by 'Sorley Boy Mac Donnell' (some times the Irish record refers to him as 'Yellow Charlie'). Sorley Boy Mac Donnell was a Scottish chieftain, who from Dunluce, controlled the northeastern coast of Ireland. Apparently, the English were none too happy with this particular Scottish incursion in to northern Ireland as in 1584 Queen Elizabeth orders Sir John Perrott to take the castle. After intensive battle the castle falls, and Sorley Boy flees. In a little bit of irony, Perrott appoints (unknown to him) a confederate of Sorley Boy to select troops to garrison the castle. As soon as Perrott leaves, Sorley Boy retakes the castle with ease. In the end, Sorley Boy bows to Elizabeth and swears his allegiance to the English Kingdom.

Eventually, Sorley Boys' son Randal inherits the castle from his father and becomes the Earl of Antrim.

