EXPERIENCE Glasnevin

IRELAND'S NATIONAL CEMETERY

Sensory & Social Story

Introduction

This story is useful for anyone who would like to familiarise themselves with Glasnevin Cemetery Visitor Centre before visiting, including families with young children, elderly visitors, and people with sensory processing differences.

The guide will show us the building, how to get around, and the sounds and smells we will encounter on our visit.

During our visit, we can always take breaks, leave the visitor centre and re-enter, and go at our own pace. We can use headphones or comfort items during our time here.

Taking a Break

If we would like to take a break, we can sit outside. There are seats outside the café and benches throughout the cemetery. We can sit here for as long as we like.

Café seating

Benches located beside the O'Connell Tower

Staff

If we have questions about the Visitor Centre or need help, we can ask a member of staff. They are friendly and happy to help. Staff wear uniforms that say, ‘Experience Glasnevin’ and name badges that hang around their necks.

Entering the Experience Glasnevin Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre is located on the right of the entrance to the cemetery. It is a large glass building.

We have 2 entrances. One door at the front swings open when pulled. The other, at the side, slides open automatically.

Entrance 1

Entrance 2

Reception

When we enter the Visitor Centre, we will see a reception desk with staff behind the desk. Sometimes this area can be busy and noisy. There may be students or tourists standing in this area. We might have to wait in line before we can speak to a member of staff.

Before going on a tour or into the exhibitions, we speak to the staff behind the desk. We can buy a ticket here. If we have already bought a ticket online, we check in at reception by telling the staff what time our tour is on and what our name is.

Gift Shop

We will see a gift shop beside reception where we can buy items.

Café

There is a café next to the Visitor Centre where we can buy snacks, drinks, and food. The café may be busy and have the smells of food and noise from the coffee machine, people speaking, cutlery on plates, and chairs moving. When we are ready to order, we ask at the till and pay there.

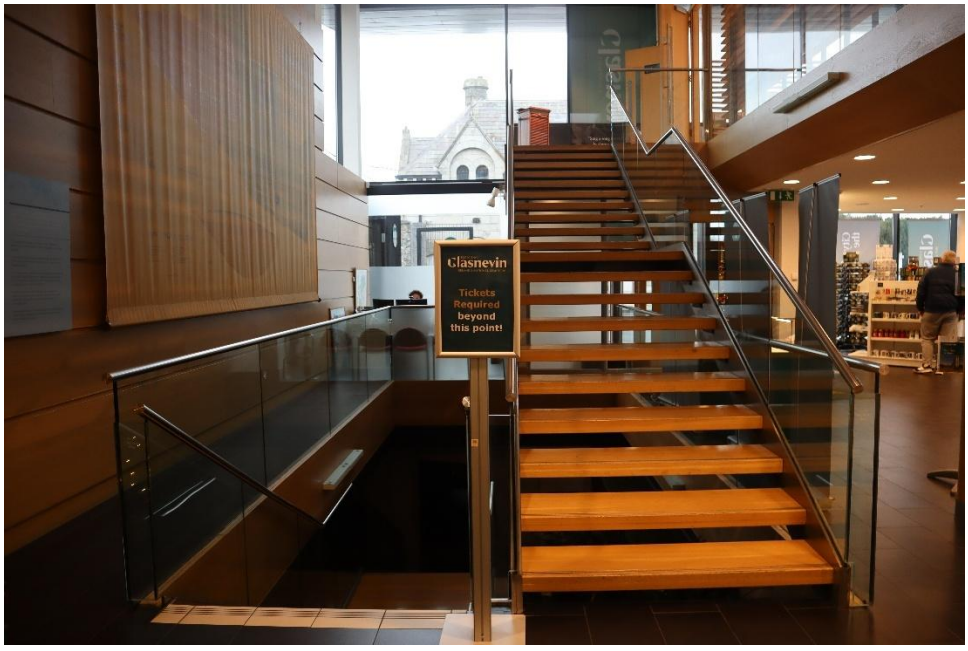
Toilets

Bathrooms are located outside the building, beside the café.

Exhibitions

The exhibitions are self-guided. We can choose what we would like to explore and how long to stay. The exhibitions can be noisy and have bright or dark lighting. We do not have to see everything, and we can take breaks if we would like.

Exhibitions are on 2 floors, upstairs and downstairs. After purchasing a ticket, they are accessible by stairs or by a lift.



City of the Dead (Downstairs)

This area is dark and noisy. We can hear the sound of water flowing and a video playing. To watch the video, we sit opposite the projector. Some elements of the exhibition are interactive.

Extra-ordinary Lives (Upstairs)

This area is bright with large windows and lots of natural light. We can hear the sounds of videos playing. The exhibition upstairs have panels with information to read. When we see a screen, we can touch it to watch a video or find out more information.

On the Tour

Tours leave from reception. We will hear an announcement over the speakers to say that the tour is leaving.

After the announcement, our guide will stand at the door and asks people to follow them outside for the tour to begin.

In the cemetery, we can hear noise of cars from the road. Sometimes, we see funerals entering the chapel and hear the sound of bag pipes.

On the tour, we listen to the guide as they give us information about the people in the cemetery. When we have questions, we wait to ask them until the guide asks if we have any questions.

At the end of the tour, we can go back into the Visitor Centre, walk around the cemetery, or leave the cemetery.

This social story has been compiled with guidance from Fáilte Ireland and Life Skills Advocate.