

In 1835, the historic linen village of Sion Mills was founded by the Herdman brothers in the beautiful valley of the River Mourne on the western edge of the Sperrin Mountains in County Tyrone.

The furthest west in Europe of the large mills of the Industrial Revolution, Herdmans Mill saved the local populace from starvation and became the 'Rolls Royce' of the linen industry worldwide. Benevolent and visionary employers, the Herdman family created and sustained for 7 generations a successful, non-sectarian community, whose combined skills produced the finest linen yarn in the world.

After 170 years, flax-spinning in Sion Mills has ended, but the villagers are very proud of their unique Industrial Heritage and are regenerating it as a Visitor Attraction accessible to all, with great similarities to New Lanark and Saltaire, both now World Heritage sites. Sion Mills today is a Conservation Area with the most handsome large Mill left in Ireland and has an important architectural heritage with 40 listed buildings in the village. The spectacular water-power system could in itself be a National Monument with nothing in the British Isles to match it. But to fully appreciate, understand and enjoy this special place, you need to visit Sion Mills to see its living history and the efforts being made to preserve it, and to gain a personal insight into the millworkers' lifestyle.



for more information or to book a tour please contact us:

Sion Mills Guided Tours

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sion mills
masters of irish linen

Guided Tours of this
Industrial Heritage
Conservation Area

Nestled at the foot of the Sperrins, in the beautiful valley of the river Mourne lies the unique heritage site of Sion Mills, the heart of the Irish linen industry.

Sion Mills: The Tour

Tour duration approx 1 hour (can be shorter/longer if required)

Situated on the main road (A5) halfway between the walled City of Derry and the Ulster American Folk Park, Sion Mills is very accessible to visitors.

The rich history Sion Mills is best discovered and learned from someone who has lived through it! Our local guides will take you on a journey through life in the mill and village and will share a story or two on the way.

Start your tour in our Visitors Centre (situated in the former Men's Institute, number 1 on the map below) which has refreshments and the usual facilities available. Tour guides should be booked in advance. Excellent film documentaries of the Sion Mills story can be shown if wished (4 or 20 mins, depending on your time schedule).

This is a story of ongoing regeneration, so visit Sion Mills to see its living history and the efforts being made to preserve it. Be part of bringing new life back to this special place.

Our Guided Tours

Our professional, friendly and informative local tour guides will take you on a journey into Sion Mills, past and present.

Tour Schedule:

All tours are available on request

Prices start from £5.00 per person

Group discounts / packages are available
Tours can be tailored to your requirements

to book call: (028) 8165 9772

or email: info@sionmills.org

Please phone to confirm prices and booking arrangements.
Remember to pre-book to avoid disappointment

Facilities

- Over 40 listed buildings
- Visitors Centre
- Short welcome film
- Refreshments available
- Guided walking tour with experienced local guides
- Access into some buildings (on guided tour only)
- Beautiful river walks
- Countryside setting
- Restrooms
- Coach parking

Places of interest

The Institute (Visitors Centre) 1

Guided Tour start point / Shop / Refreshments / Restrooms

Presbyterian Church 2

The Old School 3

St Theresa's Church 4

The Gate Lodge 5

The Stables (under renovation) 6

Sion House (access not available) 7

The Flax Spinner 8

Church Hall 9

Church of the Good Shepherd 10

Village Houses 11

The Weir 12

Swinging Bridge 13

The Holm Field 14

Herdmans Mill 15

P - Parking

