

Visitor Information

Where To Stay

For details of accommodation along the N69, as well as attractions in this area, or to make a reservation, please call to:

Adare Tourist Information Office

(Open February to November)
Adare, Co. Limerick.
t: +353 (0)61 396255

Limerick Tourist Information Office

(Open Year Round)
Arthur's Quay Park, Limerick.
t: +353 (0)61 317522

Askeaton Tourist Information Point

East Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
t: +353 (0)6966200

Foynes Tourist Information Point

Flying Boat Museum, Foynes, Co. Limerick.
t/f: + 353 (0)69 65416

Alternatively please log on to the following websites:

www.shortbreaksireland.ie
www.ShannonDevelopment.ie
www.discoverireland.ie/shannonregion
www.facebook.com/IrelandsShannonRegion



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De Vere family and is famous for its nature walks, ornamental gardens and arboretum and its camping and caravan park. **Stonehall Visitor Farm** is located in a tranquil and beautiful rural setting next to the Forest Park, where a huge range of both farm and exotic animals can be seen. For those looking for something a little less sedate, get the adrenalin pumping at **Kilcornan Karting** on the main N69. The track offers an excellent challenge for beginner and expert alike. This area together with nearby **Adare**, which is known as Ireland's prettiest village, provide excellent accommodation and dining choices.



From Kilcornan, drive a short distance west (6km) to the medieval village of **Askeaton** soaking up the local atmosphere while getting a real sense of history. In medieval times, Askeaton was a stronghold of the Munster Geraldines, the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. The original **Askeaton Castle** was built around 1199; nowadays the castle ruins dominate the town. There are some very impressive features to be seen including the Desmond Hall, a 15th Century banqueting hall with carved windows. Alongside the castle is another ruined building, Askeaton's **Hell Fire Club** dating from the late 17th Century. Down river from the Castle are the ruins of the well preserved 14th Century **Franciscan Friary**, built for the



Franciscans by the legendary Gearoid Iarla, 4th Earl of Desmond. In the grounds of the Protestant church on the other side of town are the ruins of the 13th Century **St. Mary's Church**. In the church yard is the grave of the poet and author **Aubrey de Vere** (1788-1846), a member of the de Vere family who resided at Curraghchase House. Local guide Anthony Sheehy conducts tours of the town by appointment or through Askeaton Tourist Information Point. Askeaton also has a modern service and hook up facility for camper vans near the Askeaton Leisure Centre.



10 Km west of Askeaton, you will find the busy seaport of **Foynes** on the Shannon Estuary. A visit to the **Foynes Flying Boat Museum** with its full size replica of a flying boat is an absolute must! The Museum recalls the era 1939 – 1945 when trans-Atlantic air traffic between Europe and North America centred on Foynes, with flying boats using the sheltered strait between the village and Foynes Island. Foynes village is also where Irish Coffee was invented in 1942 by Chef Joe Sheridan for cold and weary flying boat passengers and is still served today in the village. Just outside of Foynes at Mountrenchard, are the beautiful Boyce Gardens and Painting Studio (open May to October) which are home to herbaceous beds and rock gardens. Also nearby are the magnificent **Knockpatrick Gardens** (open April to October) where a wide variety of plants, flowers and trees can be seen. Inland, the towns of Rathkeale and Newcastlewest along the R521 can be visited.



From here, continue west along the N69 through Loughill as far as **Glin**. The stunning Shannon Estuary offers excellent views along this stretch of the drive. Glin is an immensely attractive village overlooking the Estuary and is laid out in the form of a large square. It is the seat of the Knight of Glin whose family (Fitzgerald's) have had lands here,



From Glin continue on to **Tarbert**. The Tarbert Bridewell Visitor Centre is well worth a visit. Tarbert acts as the gateway between Clare and Kerry. From here one can continue on the N69 to the heritage town and home of famous Irish writer John B. Keane, **Listowel**, a distance of 18km and on to **Tralee**, Co. Kerry, or take the ferry to **Killimer** in Co. Clare and discover what this beautiful County has to offer.

All directions for this route are available to download from www.aaireland.ie/routes_beta/

Please Note:
This route is intended only as a suggestion. You can begin your journey from any point along the route.

Errors and Omissions
Every care has been taken in the compilation of this guide to ensure its accuracy and compliance with the consumer protection laws of Ireland. Shannon Development cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention future editions will be amended accordingly.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Shannon Region and the N69 Tour - from Limerick to Kerry.

We need to hear your feedback and views, suggestions and recommendations, good service and bad service, highs and lows. Please let us know so we can make your next experience even better.

Tell us at Limericktourism@ShannonDevelopment.ie

for over 700 years. Glin Castle is a large white, many windowed building erected in the 1780's. Another highlight of the Shannon Estuary is the **Shannon Estuary RIB Tours** available from Tarbert and Foynes. A wide variety of tours including Foynes Island, Shannon Estuary, Historical and Wildlife Tours and tailored private and commercial trips are available.

Things to See & Do

Attractions, Activities & Adventures

Boyce Gardens, Loughill
t: +353 (0)69 65302
www.boycesgardens.com

Clarina Riding Centre
t: +353 (0)61 353087
or +353 (0)87 2479965
e: clarinaequestrian@hotmail.com

Curraghchase Forest Park
t: +353 (0)61 396349
f: +353 (0)61 338271
www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Kilcornan Karting
t: +353 (0)61 393728
www.limerickkarting.com

Heritage & History

Foynes Flying Boat Museum
t: +353 (0)69 65416
f: +353 (0)69 65416
www.flyingboatmuseum.com

King John's Castle
t: +353 (0)61 360788
www.shannonheritage.com

Limerick City Museum
t: +353 (0)61 417826
f: +353 (0)61 415266
www.limerick.ie

The Hunt Museum
t: +353 (0)61 312833
f: +353 (0)61 312834
www.huntmuseum.com

Knockpatrick Gardens
t: +353 (0)69 65256
www.limerickgardentrail.com/KnockpatrickGardens.htm

Limerick City Art Gallery
t: +353 (0)61 310633
<http://gallery.limerick.ie/>

Shannon Estuary Rib Tours
t: +353 (0)86 8140833
www.ribtours.ie

Stonehall Visitor Farm
t: +353 (0)61 393940
f: +353 (0)61 393940
www.stonehallvisitorfarm.com

St. Mary's Cathedral
t: +353 (0)61 310293
f: +353 (0)61 315721

The Georgian House and Garden
t: +353 (0)61 314130
f: +353 (0)61 315513
www.limerickcivictrust.ie

Thomond Park Museum
t: +353 (0)61 421100
f: +353 (0)61 421101
www.thomondpark.ie

Walking Tours Of Askeaton
Anthony Sheehy, tours by appointment.
t: +353 (0)61 392149

The N69 Tour

A scenic drive from Limerick to Kerry ...



As endorsed by the Lonely Planet 2010 Guide ('Scenic N69')



Overview

The **N69** Tour

Start: Limerick City **Finish:** Tarbert, Co. Kerry
Distance: 58Km **Duration:** 2–3 Days

This 2 to 3 day driving route winds its way through the stunning and changing landscapes of West Limerick, to Tarbert in Co Kerry. You will encounter many highlights along the way including attractions and activities that offer plenty for all the family to explore. From Limerick City to the riverside villages of Foynes, Loughill and Glin, this 58 km (36 miles) route offers everything from medieval heritage to outdoor adventure.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you!

LIMERICK

Begin your tour in **Limerick's Riverside City**, the vibrant capital of Ireland's Shannon Region. Limerick is the country's third largest city and has a pace and dynamism you'll find almost nowhere else in Ireland. Visit the medieval glories of **King's Island**, home to the magnificent **King John's Castle**, **St. Mary's Cathedral**, the oldest building in Limerick still in daily use, the **Limerick Museum** and the nearby **Hunt Museum**. Limerick's **Medieval Quarter** sits comfortably alongside pedestrian



plazas lined with colourful boutiques and award-winning restaurants and cafés. **Limerick's Georgian Quarter**, a gem in the City's crown, with the elegant **Georgian House and Garden**, the **Limerick City Art Gallery** and the award-winning **People's Park** is well worth a visit.

Limerick is rightly famed as the sporting capital of Ireland with the "spiritual home" of Munster Rugby, **Thomond Park** dominating the city skyline. The stadium incorporates a state of the art interactive museum and guided stadium tour, which is a real treat for all rugby fans. Limerick has something for everyone in terms of entertainment, with a buzzing nightlife, legendary pubs and nightclubs, thriving arts and cultural scene and a vibrant menu of year round festivals and events. A flourishing restaurant scene and a wide range of top quality accommodation options to suit all tastes and budgets makes this university city a place to discover.

MUNGRET

From Limerick City, drive west along the N69 to the lovely village of **Mungret**. Around the village are locations mentioned throughout Frank Mc Court's world famous book "**Angela's Ashes**" including Mungret graveyard, the Cement Factory and Carrigogunnell Castle. East of the village on the R510 lies the ruins of **Mungret Abbey** built between 1251 and 1272. From Mungret, continue along the N69 road through the villages of Clarina and Kildimo, perhaps stopping in Clarina for some horse-riding.

KILCORNAN

Continue on to **Kilcornan** also known as the village of Stonehall, where you will find a cluster of family fun activities to keep you and your little ones entertained. Enjoy the great outdoors in the vast **Curraghchase Forest Park**. Consisting of some 600 acres of forest, Curraghchase was once the estate of the

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