

Experience LIMERICK TOURS

Limerick.ie



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This 3 to 4 day driving route weaves its way through a rich tapestry of castles and cathedrals, magnificent Medieval, Georgian and modern architecture, scenic countryside, buzzing urban streetscapes and adventure packed activities and attractions.

These easy to navigate tours will help you explore some of Limerick's inimitable culture, heritage and unique experiences and activities. The route is designed so that you can complete it in its entirety over 4 days or take it in smaller one day chunks.

OVERVIEW

START: Limerick City
DURATION: 3 – 4 days

Two to three nights in Limerick is ample time to explore some of the sights as set out in this guide. Accommodation in Limerick is plentiful, diverse and offers excellent hospitality and high standards.

Limerick is also the **Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way**, so use it as a base for exploring Ireland's longest touring route. While you're here, make sure to engage with Limerick's locals – there is a reason why we are known as Ireland's friendliest county!

Please Note:
This route is intended only as a suggestion. You can begin your journey from any point along the route. Please note and adhere to any signs stating 'Private Property'.

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1. LIMERICK CITY

Where better to begin your **Experience Limerick Tours**, than in its city centre. Limerick is an ideal city to explore on foot or by the city's very own **Limerick Bike Scheme**. Limerick City, one of the oldest cities in Europe, is a Viking city dating back to the 9th Century and is home to a multitude of historical and cultural treasures. Its castles, ancient walls and museums are a testament to its dramatic and captivating past. Explore King's Island -

the **Medieval Quarter** of Limerick and to bring your Limerick experience to life, why not take a **walking tour**, a **horse drawn carriage tour** or perhaps a **kayaking tour** of the city to see Limerick's medieval gems from a completely different perspective. There is a mind boggling amount of history to absorb here, including the 13th Century **King John's Castle**. Imagine a Norman soldier's life in this ancient fortress and take in some of the very best views of the city from its medieval turrets. **St. Mary's Cathedral** is the oldest building in Limerick still in daily use and if the walls could talk what a story they would tell! Immerse yourself in Limerick's fascinating history at the nearby **Limerick City Museum** and at the **Hunt Museum** which houses over 2,000 works of art and antiquity including pieces by Renoir and Picasso. Make sure to also take in some sporting history at Limerick's **Thomond Park Stadium**.

While you soak up Limerick's amazing historic sights, don't forget to also savour the here and now. Take in the eye-catching **urban art** dotted around the city; check out its eclectic **boutiques**, its colourful and cosy **cafés**, the **Limerick Craft Hub** and the award-winning **Milk Market** farmer's market.

If a moment of solitude is desired, our recently developed **waterfront** provides a picturesque and peaceful experience on the banks of the majestic **River Shannon** as does the beautiful urban oasis that is the **People's Park**.

You will be spoiled for choice when it

comes to dining. Limerick is a haven of excellent **casual dining** restaurants serving up everything from contemporary cuisine to traditional fare.

Continue up the main street, **O'Connell Street**, toward the elegant Georgian streets of the **Newtown Pery** area of the city, Limerick's Georgian Quarter. Explore one of the finest collections of Irish contemporary art at the **Limerick City Gallery of Art** and the area in which Pulitzer Prize winning author **Frank McCourt (Angela's Ashes)** grew up can all be found here. A fascinating **Museum** dedicated to Frank McCourt's life is on Hartstonge Street.

No visit to Limerick city would be complete, without a visit to its welcoming mix of legendary pubs and buzzing bars. Limerick has some great theatres, venues and performance spaces both here in the city and in Co. Limerick with a **live music scene** that is recognised nationally and new and established acts can regularly be found performing across many of our venues.

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. Limerick City and County Council 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 Limerick and the Experience Limerick Tours.
We would be delighted to hear your feedback and views, suggestions and recommendations. Please tell us at marketing@limerick.ie.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Where To Stay

For details of accommodation in Limerick City and County, as well as attractions and activities or to make a reservation, please call to:

Information compiled by:
Office of Communications & Marketing
Limerick City & County Council

Tourist Information Offices:
Adare Tourist Information Office
Adare, Co. Limerick.
t: +353 (0)61 396255

Limerick Tourist Information Office
O'Connell Street
Limerick City
t: +353 (0)61 317522

Visitor Information Points:
Askeaton Civic Trust House VIP
East Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
t: +353 (0) 87 6305922
Castleconnell VIP
Kingfisher Bar, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick
t: +353 (0) 61 377407

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

Kilfinane VIP
Main Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick
t: +353 (0) 63 91748

Kimallock VIP
Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
t: +353 (0) 63 31200

Lough Gur VIP
t: +353 (0) 61 385186

Make sure to log on to:
www.limerick.ie

Contact Information:

Tour 1: Limerick City
King John's Castle
www.shannonheritage.com

Limerick City Museum
www.limerick.ie

St. Mary's Cathedral
www.limerick.ie

The Hunt Museum
www.huntmuseum.com

Frank McCourt Museum
www.frankmccourtmuseum.com

Limerick City Gallery of Art
<http://http://gallery.limerick.ie>

Limerick Milk Market
www.milkmarketlimerick.ie

Thomond Park
www.thomondpark.ie

Nevsail Watersports
www.nevsailwatersports.ie

Get West
www.getwest.ie

Limerick Carriage Tours
www.limerickcarriagetours.com

Limerick Civic Trust
www.limerickcivictrust.ie/walking-tours

Tour 2: East County Limerick Visit Ballyhoura
www.visitballyhoura.com

Glenstal Abbey
www.glenstal.org

Lough Gur Visitors Centre
www.loughgur.com

Irish Harp Centre
www.irishharpcentre.com

Tour 3: West Limerick Drive
Adare Heritage Centre
www.adareheritagecentre.ie

Limerick Racecourse
www.limerickraces.ie

Retro Ventures Ireland
www.retroventuresireland.com

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre
www.irishpalatines.org

Desmond Banqueting Hall
www.heritageireland.ie

Great Southern Greenway
Limerick - www.southerntrail.net

Tour 4: N69 Drive
Stonehall Visitor Farm
www.stonehallvisitorfarm.ie

Curraghchase Forest Park
www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Basecamp Action Adventure Park
www.basecampadventurepark.ie

Foynes Flying Boat Museum
www.flyingboatmuseum.com

Shannon Tarbert Ferry
www.shannonferries.com

Limerick Greyhound Stadium
www.igb.ie

Kilcormon Karting
www.limerickkarting.com

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2. EAST COUNTY LIMERICK AND THE GOLDEN VALE DRIVE

Ireland's Ancient East is steeped in history, legend, heritage and folklore and there is a wealth of experiences just waiting to be explored throughout Limerick. Tour 2 takes you to some of the county's many highlights within the historic heartland of the Ancient East. Begin 13km north-east of the city on the N7 Limerick to Dublin Road, in the lovely village of **Castleconnell**. Visit the **Irish Harp Centre** or perhaps try a spot of **angling**. Take a walk by **Worrell's End** or **World's End**, the quay that was used during the Great Famine in the 1840's as an embarkation point for emigrants fleeing Ireland for the New World.

From here, continue by car to the village of **Murroe** where you will find the magnificent **Glenstal Abbey** (note – private property, however, visitors are welcome to walk in the grounds and to visit the church). Close by is the

Clare Glens - a peaceful, wooded, walkers paradise. Enhance your East Limerick experience even further and check out the **electric bikes** from Go-Eco bikes in **Cappamore**.

Travel back to the main N7 road toward the city and take the R512 heading in the direction of Kilmallock. The picturesque driving route you are embarking upon is known as the **Golden Vale Drive**, which will take you through some of the most lush, green and rolling pastures in Ireland. Continuing through Ballyneety and on to **Lough Gur**, 20km south of the city centre, is one of Ireland's most important archaeological locations, with a number of sites and monuments ranging in date from Neolithic to Medieval times. At the lake, you'll see the Grange stone circle (the largest stone circle in Ireland), a dolmen and the remains of at least three crannógs. Stone Age houses have also been unearthed here – while other features include a number of ring forts and a hill fort. While you're here, actively engage with over 6,000 years of history at the fascinating **Lough Gur Heritage Centre**.

For lunch consider stopping off in the charming town of **Bruff** or check out what it was like to live in the 1900's at **Old Irish Ways Museum**. Continue on to picturesque **Bruree**, famous for being the place where former President of Ireland, Eamon de Valera grew up. Make sure to stop off in the bustling Walled Town of **Kilmallock**. Kilmallock, also known as the crossroads of Munster,

is an important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development from the 13th through to the 17th centuries. Nearby Kilmallock are the impressive villages and towns of **Kilfinane, Ballylanders, Galbally, Emly and Pallasgreen**.

It is no secret that this whole area is steeped in history but it is also a playground for outdoor pursuits with a whole host of activities designed to get your adrenalin pumping. Brush away the cobwebs on the longest trail network of its kind at the **Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails**, try go-karting, go hill or mountain walking where the scenery really is a sight to behold or saddle up on the forest trails and mountain paths with **Ballyhoura Horse Trails**. If you have any budding environmentalists with you, make sure to visit **Griston Bog Outdoor Classroom**.

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3. WEST LIMERICK DRIVE

From Limerick take the M/J N20 to "Ireland's Prettiest Village", **Adare**, stopping en route for a breath of fresh air and a walk by the beautiful River Maigue in **Croom**. Adare is an old world village of quaint thatched cottages, medieval buildings and rich heritage and is truly a gem in Limerick's crown. Antiques shops, boutiques, a **Heritage Centre**, cozy country pubs and other retailers jostle for space with a half dozen or so restaurants, while the ruins that surround the village add their own

counterpoint of timeworn and venerable character.

Further enhance your experience of Adare with a visit to the **farmers market** which takes place every Saturday, indulge in the finest **afternoon tea**, go **horse riding**, take in a day at the races at **Limerick Racecourse** at nearby Patrickswell, or go golfing in the area's world-class and much renowned **golf** courses. Why not further explore the open roads of Co. Limerick or the **Wild Atlantic Way** with a **classic car or retro motorcycle** hire from RetroVentures Ireland, located just outside **Croagh** village, just beyond Adare.

Continue along the N21 to **Rathkeale**, 11km west of Adare. In the 18th century, Sir Thomas Southwell introduced the Palatines to the area, a group of German-speaking Protestant refugees who settled here. Today, the **Irish Palatine Heritage Centre**, highlighting the heritage of this group of people can be found here.

Continue through the village of **Ardagh**, where the world famous **Ardagh Chalice**, dating from the 8th century was found. Continue through the attractive village of **Athea**. Hidden away in Athea village, behind the Memorial Hall is a

quirky and unique **Fairy Trail**, home to ten fairies who each have their own fairy door. There is also a worry-tree called 'Croga' which promises to take away any worries you might have if you place your hand on the plaque attached to it! From here, continue to **Newcastle West**, the largest town in Limerick County. There's loads to do here including a visit to the almost perfectly preserved **Desmond Banqueting Hall**, take a stroll through the magnificent parkland of the **Demesne** or get some retail therapy in the town's excellent fashion and accessory boutiques.

Stop at **Abbeyfeale** and explore this appealing market town, or get off the beaten track and explore on foot or by bike, part of the **Great Southern Greenway Limerick**, a unique 96km stretch of countryside which follows the route of the former Limerick to Tralee/Fenit Railway line.

Continue through **Mountcollins, Ashford and Broadford** villages at the foothills of the Mullaghareik Mountains. Take note of the simple yet poignant memorial to the **Great Irish Famine** in the Church grounds at Broadford and the village library, which is one of the Carnegie libraries built by the **American Carnegie Foundation** in the early 1900's.

Finish up your scenic West Limerick Drive in **Ballingarry**, where the ruins of the **DeLacy Castle**, originally built by the **Knights Templar** and **Knockfierna** (the Hill of Truth) can be seen.

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4. N69 DRIVE

From the city, with **Limerick Greyhound Stadium** on your left, take the N69 to the very historic village of **Mungret**. In the general area of the village itself are locations mentioned in Frank McCourt's world famous book **Angela's Ashes**. From Mungret continue on through the villages of Clarina and Kildimo.

Continue on to **Kilcormon**, where you will find a cluster of fantastic family fun activities to keep you and your little ones entertained. Enjoy the great outdoors at the vast **Curraghchase Forest Park**, check out the selection of farm and exotic animals at **Stonehall Visitor Farm** or for something a little less sedate try a spot of **go-karting**. From Kilcormon, drive a short distance west (6km), hopping out of your car at **Askeaton** to soak up the local atmosphere and get a real sense of history. In medieval times, Askeaton was a stronghold of the Munster Geraldines, the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Here you will find **Askeaton Castle**, the **Hell Fire Club**, the ruins of the 14th Century **Franciscan Friary** and the ruins of the 13th Century **St. Mary's Church**. Don't pass up the opportunity to take a guided tour with local guide, **Anthony Sheehy**, who has been conducting tours of his home town for the last 30 years.

Take a short detour off the N69 to **Shanagolden** where adventure awaits in the form of **Basecamp Action Adventure Park** and get to grips with a whole host of action packed outdoor activities.

Continue on to **Foynes**, where a visit to the **Foynes Flying Boat Museum**

on the main road 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 is also the birthplace of the **Irish coffee**, concocted for cold and weary seaplane passengers arriving ashore at the air terminus.

This part of Limerick is blessed with an abundance of beautiful gardens. Make sure to stop by **Knockpatrick and Boyce Gardens** as you're in the area.

Continue west along the N69 through Loughill as far as **Glin**. Situated on the banks of the Shannon Estuary, Glin is the former seat of the Knight of Glin and is home to the lovely **Glin Heritage Walks**. From Glin continue on to **Tarbert**. The car ferry at Tarbert acts as the gateway between Clare and Kerry and indeed the **Wild Atlantic Way**. From here one can continue on the N69 through **Listowel** and on to **Tralee**, Co. Kerry or take the ferry to **Killimer** in Co. Clare and discover what this beautiful county has to offer.

Limerick.
Your destination.
Your gateway.
Your base.

With four easy to navigate tours, bringing you through one of Ireland's richest and most diverse visitor experiences, Limerick is also a beautifully central, inexpensive base from which to tour Ireland's Ancient East and the spectacular Wild Atlantic Way. Visit Limerick.ie for tailored itineraries... and make life easier.

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