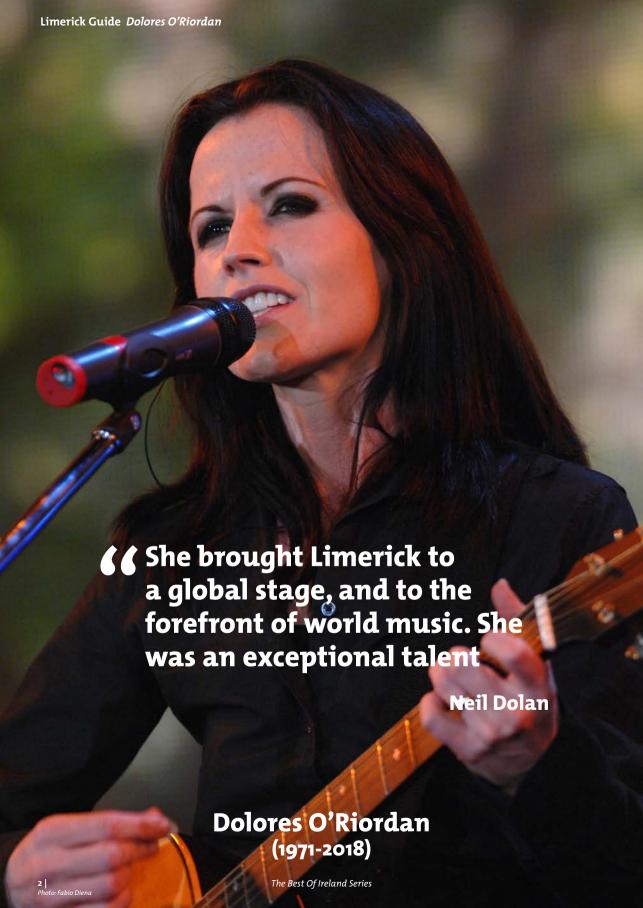
THE BEST OF IRELAND Series

Limerick







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RRP: €3.00



Limerick: Past Master...



et on the mighty River Shannon, Limerick tells a compelling story from Viking settlement to cosmopolitan city...

It is thought that Luimneach (the Irish name for Limerick) initially referred to the general area along the banks of the Shannon Estuary, then known as 'Loch Luimnigh'. The earliest provable settlement in Limerick dates back to 812 AD but most likely there were people living here for centuries before that. The Vikings sailed up the Shannon and took charge of the land, settling on an island - later known as 'King's Island'. The Vikings and the Irish fought over the site and it was eventually taken over by Brian Ború's forces in the late 10th century.

In the 1170s, the Normans ousted the Irish. Limerick was granted its first charter and mayor by the then Lord of Ireland, later English King John I, in

1197 - a full decade before London!
King John ordered a castle to be built
and that was finished by around 1210.
By this time, the city was divided into an
'Irishtown' and an 'Englishtown' around
which strong walls were built. Those
ruins still exist.

Compelling story from Viking settlement to cosmopolitan city

Limerick's motto is a quote from Virgil's Aeneid and translates as "an ancient city well versed in the arts of war". The city was under siege at least three times in the 17th century alone - the last siege a bitter battle between the forces of William of Orange and James II, which ended with the signing of the

Treaty of Limerick in 1691. The historic treaty granted Catholic rights. Limerick flourished as a port and trading centre.

The Georgian era is responsible for some of Limerick's finest buildings, many still standing today, and the city had several booming industries such as lace, flour milling, clothing and bacon (one of Limerick's nicknames is 'Pigtown'). Limerick played a big part in the War of Independence with several notable incidents - especially those in the latter months of the war before a truce was called.

In 1919, the Limerick Trades and Labour Council organised a general strike which became known as the 'Limerick Soviet'. A radical challenge to society and to British rule; the Soviet even went so far as printing its own money!

Highlights for the local economy were the founding of nearby Shannon Airport and the growth of the manufacturing



sector in the city, both of which still have a strong presence. Limerick still has many small independent businesses too and a reputation for innovation and entrepreneurship

Limerick is investing over €1 billion in enterprise and investment infrastructure as part of the Limerick 2030 Vision:

An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, a 20 year action plan, which aims to transform Limerick through the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City centre and the wider mid-west region.

In recent years, important heritage sites like King John's Castle have been developed. There have been massive changes to the industrial landscape and Limerick's outward appearance. Several main city thoroughfares have been made over in recent years and the newest addition is a riverside boardwalk. The revamp of older buildings as well as the construction of new structures

like the iconic Riverpoint and Thomond Park Stadium has added new vibrancy. Schemes to regenerate residential and commercial areas are also currently in motion

Local artists, media figures and business people have broken new ground in various disciplines. Some of these natives have brought Limerick to prominence on an international stage like acclaimed actor Richard Harris, BBC presenter, Terry Wogan, businessman and philanthropist, JP McManus and technology entrepreneurs, John and Patrick Collison

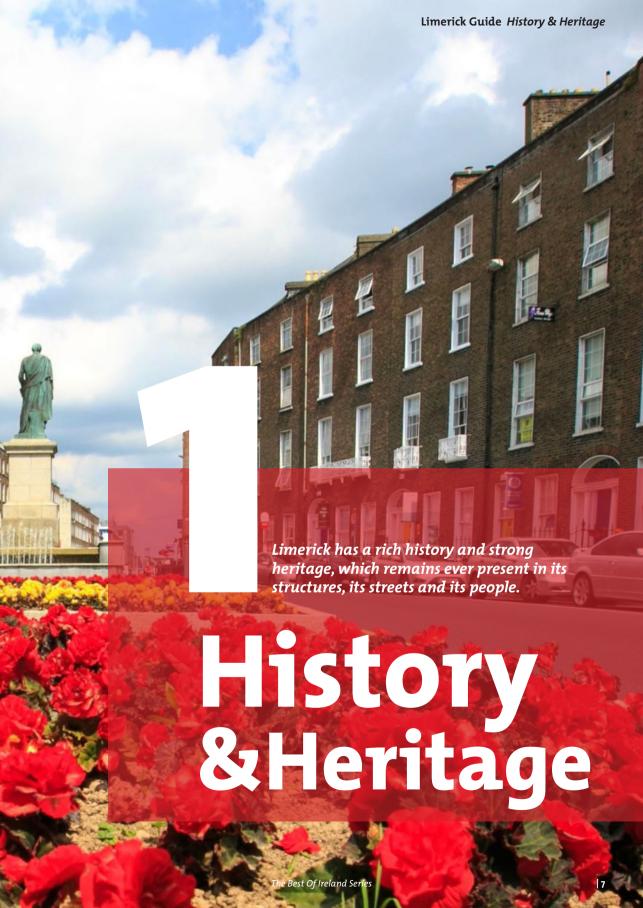
Limerick is renowned as a sporting county. The success of the Munster Rugby team internationally and Limerick's hosting of the Special Olympic Ireland Games in 2010 and 2014 are two highlights in this sphere. Limerick was Ireland's National City of Culture in 2014, hosting a huge number of events and attracting thousands of

visitors and was a shortlisted candidate city for European Capital of Culture 2020.

Limerick today has a reputation as a modern city with the friendly feel of a town. It now has a growing multicultural population and a youthful feel thanks to a large student population. The city and its people still have the energy of those that founded it hundreds of years ago.

Limerick is known by natives and visitors alike as a destination for culture, heritage, sports, shopping and leisure. Like the resilient River Shannon, Limerick has not stood still but is constantly moving and changing. This is a destination just waiting to be discovered.







Don't Miss!

- Taking a time machine back to medieval splendour in majestic King John's Castle.
- Marvelling at the architecture and interior of landmark Limerick buildings.
- Basking in the reverent atmosphere of Limerick's cathedrals, abbeys and churches.
- Visiting The Treaty Stone, which played a vital role in ending conflict in the city.
- Tracing the footsteps of an ancient people on a prehistoric site.

St. Mary's Cathedral

Bridge Street 061-310293 www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

The Cathedral of St. Mary Blessed Virgin is not only Limerick's oldest building still in regular use but also one of its most historical and beautiful.

It is located in the medieval quarter, adjacent to City Hall and a stone's throw from King John's Castle. It was founded in 1168 on the site of a palace donated

by Donal Mór O'Brien, King of Munster. Further back again, the site held a Viking meeting house. It is believed that parts of the palace were incorporated into the current structure such as the west door, which was the palace's main entrance.

Stories about former uses abound.
Legend has it that during the many
sieges, defenders used to sharpen their
swords on the stonework and when
Cromwellian forces captured the city, St.
Mary's was used as a stable!

Today, the Church of Ireland cathedral is open to the public subject to church

services. Its grand exterior is impressive but the inside is also full of character. Each of its skillfully appointed stained glass windows has a background story as colourful as the panes. The chandeliers, statues and wooden decorations are all striking.

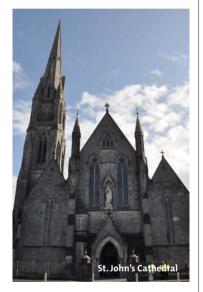
One trait of St. Mary's is music. The choir sings on Sundays and instrumental recitals are often held there. The tower is home to the famous bells and their distinctive sound has resounded through Limerick life for centuries.

St. John's Cathedral

Cathedral Place 061-414624 www.limerickdiocese.org/st-john-scathedral

One of the most iconic sights on the Limerick skyline is the magnificent spire of St. John's Cathedral.

The foundation stone was laid in 1856 and its crowning glory, the magnificent tower, was completed in 1882. The Catholic cathedral—which replaced a church founded in the 1753—was designed by English architect of note, Thomas Hardwick.



The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, to give it its full name, has many interesting features. The exterior, in Victorian Gothic style, was influenced by Salisbury Cathedral and was built by local builders, Wallace & Sons, out of Limerick limestone.

The altar table is of Limerick marble and there are numerous fine examples of stained glass windows, statues and eccelesiactical art within. Six bishops are interred here.

The tower, designed by local firm, Messrs. Hennessey, measures around 81 metres (including a cross atop it) and is one of the tallest church spires in Ireland. The bell was carried from Dublin via canal at the time.

Although it has undergone restoration over the years, the cathedral has been in continuous use since it opened in 1861. Mass times are available on the website.

The Treaty Stone Thomond Bridge

No visit would be complete without seeing Limerick's most famous landmark, the Treaty Stone. According to lore, the Treaty of Limerick was signed on this very stone on 3 October 1691 within sight of two opposing armies on Thomond Bridge. The treaty ended the second Siege of Limerick and a bitter war between William III and his father-in-law, King James II.

The Jacobites sheltered in Limerick and were besieged by the opposition.

No visit would be complete without seeing Limerick's most famous landmark, the Treaty Stone



Jacobite commander, Patrick Sarsfield, sued for peace. The treaty agreed terms including tolerance of the Catholic religion in Ireland.

The Treaty Stone is thought to be a stone step used to mount a horse and has had several resting places over the years. It currently resides directly across the river from the castle.

Bishop's Palace Church Street

061-313399 www.limerickcivictrust.ie

Bishop's Palace was painstakingly restored by Limerick Civic Trust and now stands as a testament to their great work in the city as the organisation's headquarters.

When the trust acquired the building in 1986, it had been vacant for two decades and was condemned, but LCT would not let such a prominent part of the city's history go to ruin. The corner site, just across from the castle on which the building rests, is a fixture on early maps. The building today is an early 18th century reproduction in the Palladian style - the only example of its kind in Limerick and one of the oldest buildings in 'Englishtown'.

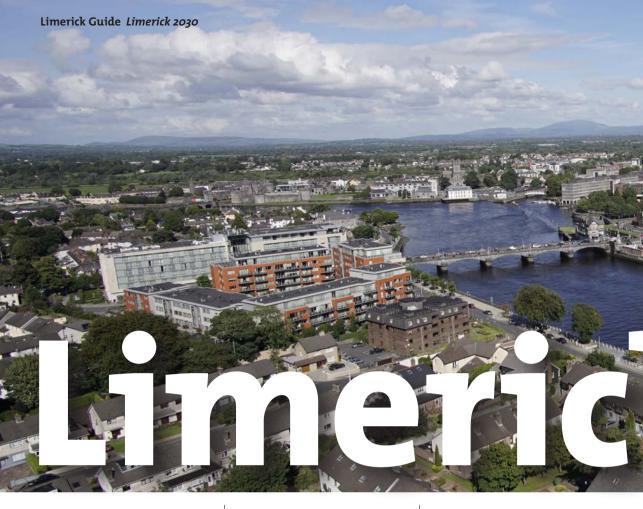
The massive building has a classical facade and doorway; it also has a unique balcony window on its gable end. The interior is lavishly decorated with period features like fireplaces and a stained glass window bearing the trust crest. It incorporates items salvaged by the trust such as a mill wheel, a gothic entryway and an iron gate.

Under the Acts of Settlement after the Cromwellian Wars from 1649-51, it was granted to the Church of Ireland bishops. The bishops are believed to have occupied the building until 1784 and then it was privately owned.

The trust's HQ is the starting point for many projects for its mission: "Improvement of our environment through positive action."

Limerick Civic Trust runs walking tours and other events.





hile Limerick is a long established and proven location for international business, it is also Ireland's most future-focused city, committed to innovation and economic growth.

The beating heart of Ireland's midwest is investing over €1 billion in enterprise and investment infrastructure as part of the Limerick 2030 Vision:

An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, a 20 year action plan, which aims to transform Limerick through the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City centre and the wider mid-west region.

The latest development in Limerick's impressive ongoing renaissance is the establishment by Limerick City and County Council of Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, a special purpose vehicle that is transforming key sites in Limerick through mixed-developments, including three iconic city centre locations in an estimated €500m plus capital investment. It will be the biggest single

mixed-development ever undertaken by an Irish local authority and will have a transformative effect on the economic and social fabric of Limerick and the wider region.

Education and upskilling programmes are a dominant feature of the Limerick 2030: An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, as enablers of the transformation currently moving apace in Limerick. The plan envisages the University of Limerick relocating certain programmes, in redesigned and redeveloped locations and centres in the city.

There are few places in Europe that can rival it

The Limerick Institute of Technology is expanding its programme offering into medical technology as part of a new 'Medical Village' and into fashion in its recently established 'Fashion Incubator'.

In addition, the plan has supported future-proofing education and skill programmes in IT and engineering that Limerick City and County Council has located in bespoke, dedicated, education centres in the city centre (at the Granary and proposed new Digital Academy).

While other Irish cities, not least the capital Dublin, are losing their competitiveness due to cost and lack of housing, congestion, rates, creaking infrastructure, Limerick, on the other hand, is affordable, has plenty of capacity and is very much open for business

There are other key ingredients that add to Limerick's seemingly winning mix now. It has three third level entities, including a world-class university, and an international airport − Shannon Airport − just 20 minutes away with daily services to the US, UK and mainland Europe. It also has a port authority managing some of the deepest waters in Europe on the Shannon Estuary and currently facilitating €7.6bn of trade annually.



Already the floodgates are starting to prise open. In the last five years alone some 12,000 jobs have been created – 6,000 of them across cutting edge sectors including financial services, retail, med-tech, IT, while the remainder are construction jobs.

When you consider all that Limerick has going for it today, there are few places in Europe that can rival it. It's hugely competitive and affordable. It is a vibrant city, with a young population, at the heart of a region of 400,000 people. Limerick has excellent international access through an uncongested airport and a superb road infrastructure. It's got housing – something that other Irish cities can't boast – and an excellent graduate supply.

Limerick is a city transformed. It was Ireland's first National City of Culture and was shortlisted for European Capital of Culture 2020. It is a sports mad city, home of Munster rugby and has a huge tradition in Gaelic Games. It's also a gateway to the Atlantic seaboard

and some of the world's most amazing scenery, golf-courses and attractions.

A gateway to the Atlantic seaboard and some of the world's most amazing scenery and golf-courses

The city also has fantastic bars, hotels and restaurants. In fact, one of the most positive elements of the Limerick Twenty Thirty programme is that the vast bulk of the property is in the city centre, within walking distance of all the amenities. That's what foreign direct investors are looking for today; staff predominantly want to live and work in vibrant cities and Limerick ticks all those boxes.

US President, Lyndon B Johnson, once famously said "yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." Limerick, at a time when others are caught in the post-Brexit headlights, is certainly putting itself in the game.

WALK THE THREE BRIDGES

Starting at Arthur's Quay Park.
Follow a stunning route along
the banks of the Shannon
crossing Matthew Bridge,
passing St Mary's Cathedral and
the historic King John's Castle
before crossing Thomond
Bridge and passing the Treaty
Stone on Clancy's Strand.



Rock Solid Heritage

From ancient settlements to medieval splendour, abbeys to castles, the structural heritage of Limerick has endured through the ages and there are lots of sites to explore.

Ireland's Prettiest Village Adare

With its thatched cottages and grand manor house, Adare is a picturesque village with a rich history. The shell of Desmond Castle, which shadows the banks of the River Maigue outside the village, and the Franciscan, Trinitarian and Augustinian Abbeys suggest a long-term settlement. But Adare really sprang up in the 18th century when the Earl of Dunraven built a huge house and estate. The 19th century rebuild of Adare Manor is now a spectacular hotel and golf resort. The Adare Heritage Centre can inform visitors about the history as well as point them towards a wealth of shops, fine bars and restaurants and local activities like golf and angling.

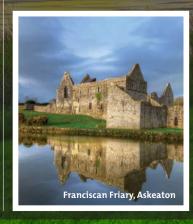
The Medieval Village of Askeaton

The medieval village of Askeaton was once a stronghold of the Munster Geraldines, the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Today, the impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle are an imposing sight in the town. It has a fascinating history. The building, which hosted Askeaton's Hellfire Club dates back to the 17th century. 'Hellfire clubs' were gentlemen's clubs where men would gather to drink and make merry but there are various spooky, occult associations with them too. The ruins of the wellpreserved 14th century Franciscan Friary are also in the village. Tours are available from a local guide. The village has many modern conveniences too. including a well-equipped leisure complex.

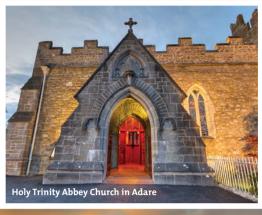
Kilmallock History Trail

063-91300

Kilmallock, known as the 'crossroads of Munster', was an important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development from the 13th through to the 17th century. This history is evident through the rich architectural heritage of the town's monuments. Along









The impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle are an imposing sight in the town

with the well-preserved ruins of the Dominican Friary, there are the remains of medieval walls with a huge castle gate type entrance when entering the town from the Limerick City direction. There is also an interesting museum and history trail to enjoy.

Glenstal Abbey

Glenstal Abbey is a Benedictine monastery in Murroe in east Limerick and on its impressive 500 acre grounds, it has a secondary school and a farm. The current Abbott is Brendan Coffey OSB and the community itself has just under 40 monks. The abbey itself—dedicated

to St Joseph and St Columba—is based in and adjacent to a Normanesque castle built by the Barrington family. The grounds are ideal for exploring and walking and include lakes, woodland and a walled, terraced garden containing a unique 'Bible Garden'. Visitors are welcome, especially those seeking spiritual respite.

Mungret Abbey

Just to the south of the road from Limerick to Askeaton on the R859 road, Mungret Abbey reportedly dates back to 551 AD when a monastery was founded here by Saint Nessan. It grew into a thriving community with six churches and 1,500 inhabitants but declined after many Viking raids.

The site was reputedly given over to the Bishop of Limerick in the 11th century and one church later became a parish church. Three churches, one with a 15th century tower, and a graveyard survive now.

These are just a small selection of the heritage sites around Limerick, which also includes Limerick Masonic Centre, Desmond Hall, Killagholehane Cemetery & Church, Carrigogunnell Castle, Glenquin Castle and more.

Desmond Hall

Outside of the city, Limerick county abounds with many more sites of historical interest, and The Desmond Banqueting Hall in Newcastlewest is among the most impressive of these. Built in the 15th century, the two-story hall was used by the Earls of Desmond for banqueting and entertainment, and features magnificently restored medieval features such as an oak musicians' gallery and a limestone hooded fireplace. A unique piece of heritage not to be missed, admission to Desmond Hall is free and by guided tour only.

Image: Lough Gur



Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Lough Gur, Co. Limerick o61-385186 www.loughqur.com

Lying just 21 km south east of Limerick city, the "magical and mysterious" Lough Gur is one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites.

The story of the first settlers in the area stretches back 6,000 years—beginning in the Stone Age and continuing right up to modern times. You will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquility of this ancient place, its glassy lake and undulating hills.

Along with history, there is a wealth of folklore associated with Lough Gur. There are ancient dwellings, megalithic tombs, crannogs and castles to see here. The heritage centre is also located 5 km from the Great Grange Stone Circle, which is Ireland's largest stone circle.

Guided tours and walking tours are available. Schools and groups are catered for, as is anyone who requires a personalised guided tour.

The newly refurbished visitor centre tells the story of pre-Celtic Ireland with the help of audio-visual features, interactive elements and displays of artifacts and replicas.

You will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquility of this ancient place

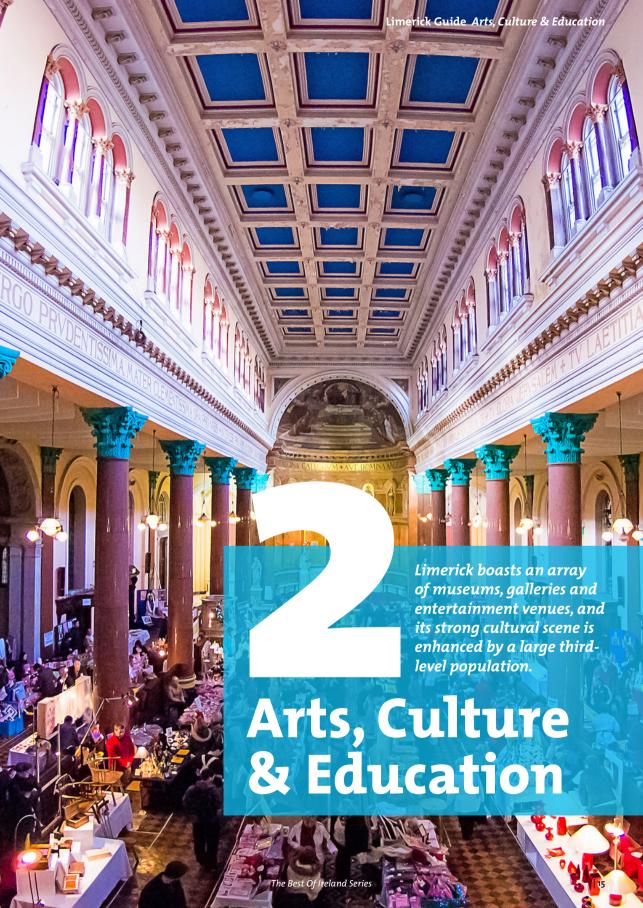
The Honey Fitz Theatre here hosts regular events and is a venue for festivals such as the annual storytelling

Visitors can also engage in natural pursuits like bird-watching, walking and cycling on a variety of trails.

Opening times are Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm and 12 noon-6pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Please note that opening times are reduced during the winter.

Admission rates: Adults, \in 5, senior citizen/student, \in 4, children, \in 3 and a family ticket is \in 15. No fee to walk the grounds.







f as writer, Thomas Merton, said that "art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time", then Limerick is the ultimate lost and found collection.

The Treaty City and wider Shannonside has long had a burning passion for heritage, culture and the arts.

Limerick remains the most vibrant cultural hub in the mid-west today and has a great deal to offer whatever your interest.

It is teeming with heritage sites, museums, galleries and performance venues. Limerick has been immortalised in several famous texts by those "bred and buttered" here.

In Frank McCourt's memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, the lanes, life and local characters of 1930s and 1940s Limerick are vividly drawn.

In Mike Finn's play, *Pigtown*, the protagonist, Tommy Clocks, illustrates a century of vibrant Limerick history from the 'Limerick Soviet' to 'The Emergency'.

In John Breen's *Alone It Stands*, the momentous rugby victory of Munster over the All Blacks in 1978 is recounted in all its mud-soaked, bone-crunching glory.

From award-winning fiction writer, Kevin Barry to wildly successful children's writer, Darren Shan to our adopted son Donal Ryan and Irish language writer, Críostóir Ó Floinn, Limerick residents have proven they have the 'write' stuff. Limerick Writers' Centre holds regular events and workshops as does the group for emerging writers, Stanzas, and Narrative 4, a collective seeking to "improve the world through the exchange of personal narratives".

It remains the most vibrant cultural hub in the mid-west today

Limerick has produced its fair share of stars of stage and screen too. Oscar nominated actor, Richard Harris, of *Gladiator* and *Harry Potter* fame, and most recently the beautiful and talented Ruth Negga both honed their craft in Limerick and brought it to international acclaim. They are in good company

with broadcasters Terry Wogan, Geri Maye and Emma O'Driscoll and Jon Kenny and Pat Shortt of comedy duo, D'Unbelievables as well as Liam O'Brien who starred in the UK soap, *Emmerdale*. Film director, David Gleeson, hails from Limerick. Theatre—amateur and professional—and musical theatre has a massive presence here.

Local companies include Bottom
Dog Theatre Company, Limerick
Youth Theatre, Amalgamotion Theatre
Company, Magic Roundabout Theatre
Company, Wildebeest Theatre Company,
Beyond the Bark and Honest Arts, the
Cecilian Musical Society, Limerick
Musical Society, Quarry Players, College
Players and Torch Players.

These are in addition to many individual practitioners and groups working here currently, and a constant stream of touring productions in local yenues

Local band, The Cranberries, have played to stadiums full of people across the globe but other musical artists like Tuesday Blue, Hermitage Green, Windings and Fox Jaw have enjoyed success also.

Brad Pitt Light Orchestra, Niamh Dunne of Beoga and Andreas Varady, to name but a few. have carved out niches







in the music industry too. Limerick's music scene is as vibrant as ever with such acts as Rusangano Family, a trio that have been steadily building their own unique brand of dynamic bass-led music. The group recently won the RTE Choice Music Prize. Bill Whelan's, *Riverdance*, forged an iconic legacy as the soundtrack accompanying the skill of traditional Irish dance in the acclaimed stage show and continues to tour the world today.

Classical music is popular here too. The Irish Chamber Orchestra is based at the University of Limerick. The choral tradition is continued by Limerick Choral Union, Ancór chamber choir and Limerick Gospel Choir and festivals that celebrate the choral tradition with the Limerick Choral Festival and Limerick Sings.

Artists like John Shinnors and Sean Keating, along with Ireland's only biennial art exhibition, Eva International, have put Limerick on the wider visual art map. Limerick City Gallery of Art holds work by both these artists in their permanent collection.

Limerick boasts a wealth of working artists, art collectives and galleries including Ormston House, a cultural resource centre in the heart of the city, which runs a programme of exhibitions and events.

Limerick School of Art and Design has an excellent reputation, not alone for fine art but its fashion department is ranked as one of the world's top 50 fashion colleges too. Limerick now has the Irish Fashion Incubator which is building on the International reputation of LSAD fashion and will provide the space and supports to foster enterprise and creativity in the field of fashion through research and development, commercial enterprise and training for industry needs.

Content their craft in Limerick and brought it to international fame

The University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology and Mary Immaculate College have established themselves among the best third level colleges in Ireland— cultivating creativity in all areas of local life, from business to architecture and from technology to sport.

The diverse offering in everything from practitioners to performances was one of the reasons why Limerick was chosen as the first National City of Culture in 2014 and a shortlisted candidate city for European Capital of Culture 2020; the legacy is expected to continue for many years. It would be impossible to sum up Limerick's plentiful cultural offering in its entirety except to say that city and county have it down to a fine art.





Limerick Museum 061-417826 museum.limerick.ie

Limerick's exciting past never gets old and the municipal museum aims to showcase the city in its full glory.

In recent years, part of the museum's huge collection was temporarily housed in City Hall on Merchants Quay but has now moved to its new permanent home at the former Franciscan Church on Henry Street.

The museum has thousands of interesting objects, which span centuries

of local and regional history. From the Bronze Age to Georgian times to the 20th century, there is something to help you step back in time including photographs, old money, letters, documents and many more artefacts.

Important events like the War of Independence take prominence. Many personal collections have been bequeathed to the museum so there are genuine local touches and the museum is leading a project to conserve the city's ancient walls.

Limerick's commercial pursuits are represented in memorabilia such as a tin for Spillane's 'Garryowen' tobacco, old tools, a printer's block and a collection of Limerick silver and lace. Sports collectables are a prominent element including items like books, medals and match tickets/programmes such as those from Munster's historic win against the New Zealand All Blacks in 1978.

The museum was founded in 1906 and was opened to the public in 1916. It has had several homes since then. Coupled with the City Archives (housed in the city library at the Granary on nearby Michael Street), the museum is a valuable resource. Its extensive online catalogue is well worth a look.

The Hunt Museum

Rutland Street o61-312833 www.huntmuseum.com

Located in the grand surroundings of Limerick's former Customs House, The Hunt Museum is a private collection turned public wonder.

The museum, set over three floors with many rooms, contains over 2,000 antiquities and works of art, which were acquired by John and Gertrude Hunt. As professional antique dealers, they also gathered interesting objects that appealed to them so the collection is unique and eclectic.

The building is beautifully restored and retains many period features such as the immense staircase and high windows, some of which look out onto the calming waters of the Shannon.

Rooms are divided into loose categories such as the ancient world with artifacts from Greece, Rome, Egypt and more and pieces from early Ireland like Neolithic flints, a Bronze Age shield and cauldron.

Other displays are dedicated to Christian objects such as a unique 9th century Antrim Cross, jewellery like the Mary Queen of Scots cross and 18/19th century decorative arts with fine examples of silver, glass and ceramics.

Browse works by leading artists such as Picasso, Yeats, Moore and Renoir, imagine what battles the fearsome weapons saw and in the treasury section, see what is reputed to be one of the 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas

for the betrayal of Christ. Everything from pottery to chalices, sculptures to tapestries, brooches to spears are on display.

The history of the museum is as interesting as the many items in it. The Hunt family moved to Lough Gur from Britain in 1939. As their collection grew, it was their dream to put it on display. The Hunt Museum Trust was established in 1974 to achieve this.

The museum contains over 2,000 antiquities and works of art

Parts of the collection were displayed in what is now the University of Limerick and in a tower house the Hunts restored at Craggaunowen in Clare. Eventually, thanks to a public-private partnership and the efforts of many, the landmark Customs House was renovated and the museum opened in 1997. Sadly, the couple passed away before they could see their wish fulfilled. Their family and trustees are dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Hunts' curiosity and generosity alive.

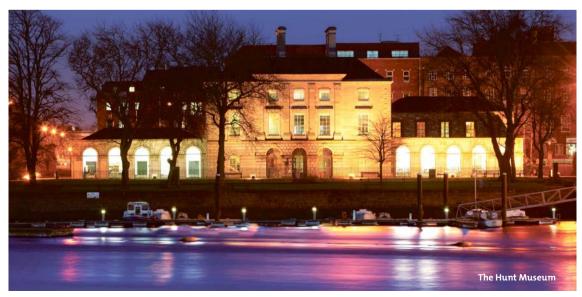
Since the museum houses one of the greatest private collections in the country, there are panels celebrating the Hunt Museum and Hunt family. It also has an extensive online catalogue and is constantly researching the provenance of items in the collection.



The Museum runs a wonderful Education Programme which offers great tours and workshops for children and adults of all ages. In addition to this the museum is very conscious of its social responsibility at the heart of the city and region and actively reaches out to as broad an audience as possible through educational activities, public engagement programmes and outreach. The museum hosts many private and public meetings, events and a lecture series.

A few steps down from the gift shop is the café which overlooks the river Shannon where you can enjoy a snack or meal. The temporary exhibition gallery on the lower ground floor showcases many visiting exhibitions throughout the year.

Admission prices: adults $\[\]$ 5 (conc. $\[\]$ 3.50), children $\[\]$ 2.50, students in primary/secondary school groups $\[\]$ 2 and a family ticket is $\[\]$ 12. The Hunt Museum offers guided tours on request (booking required).



Museums Galore

The past is ever present with Limerick's fantastic museum and heritage centre offering.

Frank McCourt is one of Limerick's most famous sons having won a Pulitzer Prize for his childhood memoir, *Angela's Ashes*. **The Frank McCourt Museum** in Hartstonge Street (061-319710) in his former school is a tribute to the writer and an era. The 1930s schoolroom is recreated in detail, with memorabilia on display including an antique bicycle, schoolbooks, paintings and photographs. Upstairs from the schoolroom, there is a recreation of the McCourt family's flat.

The Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum in county Limerick

(069-65416) explores the golden age of aviation when dignitaries like John F. Kennedy, Humphrey Bogart and Ernest Hemingway passed through here on Atlantic crossovers. The award-winning facility is the only aviation museum in Ireland and the only museum in the world dedicated to flying boats and passenger travel. The amazing story of how Fovnes became a fixture in the aviation world from 1937-1945 is told through interactive exhibits in the original terminal building. You can even hop on board a full-sized replica of the plane in question - the only existing full sized replica Boeing B314 flying boat in the world.

The 1930s schoolroom is recreated in detail

The De Valera Museum and Bruree Heritage Centre (086-3949230/087-3116008) is dedicated to Ireland's former president and renowned statesman, Eamon De Valera. Born in 1882, De Valera spent his early years in Bruree and there is a unique collection of his personal belongings here in his former school as well as artefacts and displays

recording village life at the time. The cottage in which he lived is also preserved.

The Irish Palatine Heritage Centre (069-63511) in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick houses an exhibition charting the Palatine experience in the 'Emerald Isle'. The Palatines came from Germany and after a period of persecution, came to settle in Ireland and all over the world. The heritage centre outlines their historical origins, their contribution to Irish farming life and their formative role in the development of world Methodism through displays of articles, photographs and more.



DID YOU KNOW?

JFK

Former US President, John F.
Kennedy, has Limerick roots.
President Kennedy's greatgrandfather, Thomas Fitzgerald (the
man who gave the family the 'F'
in their name), hails from the east
Limerick village of Bruff. He was
born in Bruff in 1823 but emigrated
to Boston in 1852. In June 2013, the
president's daughter, Caroline
Kennedy Schlossberg, and her
family visited the village to
trace their roots there.



Richard Harris

Actor, singer, film director, theatrical producer and writer, Richard Harris, was born in Limerick in 1930. The Oscar nominated actor is known for film roles as King Arthur in Camelot, Bull McCabe in The Field, Marcus Aurelius in Gladiator and Professor Dumbledore in two Harry Potter films. He also released numerous music singles and albums. There is a statue depicting Harris as King Arthur on Bedford Row in the city.





Limerick City Gallery of Art

Pery Square 061-310633 www.gallery.limerick.ie

Picasso once said that "art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life" and the best place in Limerick for a 'cleansing' visit is the Limerick City Gallery of Art.

Limerick's municipal art collection is one of the finest in the country

Limerick's municipal art collection is one of the finest in the country outside Dublin. The gallery is based in the two-storey Carnegie Building, originally built in 1906. In 1985, the entire space was given over to the gallery. It has been refurbished over time; the most recent revamp was completed in 2011.

LCGA is home to an important collection of Irish 18th to 21st century art in all media, a total of 831 works with artists including Camille Souter, Evie Hone, Jack B Yeats, Sean Keating and Paul Henry. It also holds the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing and the Michael O'Connor International Poster Collection

Some of the permanent collection is always on display and that is a diverse mix of classic and contemporary in a range of media. The gallery also holds exhibitions several times a year so the art is always changing so every visit unique. One exhibition of note is the acclaimed biennial of visual art, eva International.

The Carnegie Building is a strange hybrid of old and new. It has some charming features like sash windows and the original wooden floor. The freshest works added an extension including a delightful café and a new wing. There is a striking wall of windows looking out onto an oasis in the city - the People's Park. Upstairs, the ultramodern, white space is a blank canvas with several rooms coming off a balcony overlooking the ground floor.

After an amble around the gallery, the airy café is an ideal place to watch the world go by with a coffee.



Smaller Galleries

In Limerick, art is everywhere but not least in the fine collection of smaller galleries and artistic spaces.

With over 50 members, the skill of printmaking is kept alive at Limerick Printmakers (061-311806) at its studios and gallery at 3 John's Square. Exhibitions cover printmaking, painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture and installation work and it also runs classes for adults and children.

Ormston House in Patrick Street (www.ormstonhouse.com) is a cultural resource centre and gallery space, which runs a year round programme of contemporary art exhibitions.

Normoyle Frawley Gallery (061-315401) in John Street aims to support the work of both established and emerging artists, particularly those resident in Ireland. It also does framing and sells art supplies.

Fine collection of smaller galleries and artistic spaces

Two other galleries regularly exhibiting new and established artists are the **Bourn-Vincent Gallery** in the University of Limerick in Castletroy (061-213052) and **LSAD Gallery** in Limerick School of Art & Design, Clare Street.

County Limerick has several venues displaying art in assorted media. Friars' Gate Theatre in Kilmallock (063-98727) and the Red Door Gallery in Newcastle West (www.facebook.com/pages/Newcastle-West-Arts) both hold regular art exhibitions.

Draíocht Gallery and Shop

(061-395539) in Adare displays contemporary Irish art and crafts from paintings to ceramics, sculpture to furniture. The Lucy Erridge Craft Shop and Art Gallery (061-396898) in Adare displays the work of many talented artists and craftspeople.



Ballymorris Pottery Ballymorris, Cratloe, Co. Clare 061-357118 www.ballymorrispottery.com

"Classic and yet contemporary"—the artisan pottery on sale in this bijoux workshop is all of this and much more.

Established in 1994 on a 17th century farm steeped in history, the talented artists at Ballymorris Pottery create beautiful, hand-thrown stoneware pottery that is both functional and decorative. The work has, as its defining character, distinctive shapes and strong colours—a trademark for Ballymorris Pottery.

There is a wide range available in the retail outlet, where also examples of sculptural ceramics, commemorative and one-off pieces can be seen. Individual commissions, big and small, are welcome. You are welcome to visit Ballymorris Pottery School with regular classes proving popular and fun. Also Pottery Parties and one-off, hands-on events for colleagues, friends and families—all held in a newly refurbished class room, which holds up to 35 people. Summer camps and specialist tuition are also offered.

Ballymorris Pottery opens Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm. Weekends by appointment please.

Local Urban Art

In recent years, Limerick boasts some spectacular urban art by graffiti artists from Limerick and further afield.



The annual Make a Move Festival in July, which celebrates hip hop culture, began inviting urban artists to demonstrate their skills and that led to the ambitious project Draw Out – Urban Exhibitionists (www.drawout.ie). When Limerick was Ireland's National City of Culture, Draw Out was responsible for vibrant and unique works of art springing up across the city—bringing a burst of colour to buildings and derelict sites alike.

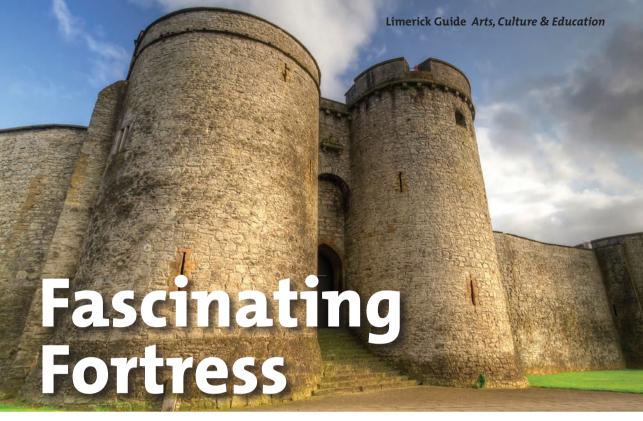
Prominent works around the city include 'The Fisherman' by artist, Fintan Magee, in Roches Street (left) eyepopping mural 'Smug' by the artist of the same name adjacent to King John's Castle and 'Love Me So' by DMC, which adorns the urban garden site on Thomas Street.

On Bridge Street, a striking mural pays tribute to Sionna, the Goddess of the River Shannon. Commissioned



by the local authority and Limerick Civic Trust, the piece was designed and painted by Bold Details - the street art duo of LSAD students Cormac Dillon and Jonathan Noonan - adding a splash of colour and modernity to the historic King's Island.





King John's Castle King's Island 061-360788 www.shannonheritage.com

King John's Castle has been an imposing fixture on the banks of the River Shannon since the 13th century. With a 21st century makeover to all its facilities, it is now a landmark you can't miss.

With the help of an interactive visitor experience, a trip to the castle is an exercise in time-travel—illustrating its history with over 800 years of stories.

After Limerick was awarded its first Charter and Mayor in 1197, the Anglo-Normans wanted to make their mark on the city and fortify its defenses. King John ordered a castle to be built and work started around 1200. The castle was built on an existing fortification in the oldest part of Limerick with a good vantage point up and down the river. Though it was attacked many times, its high outer walls, corner towers, battlements and gate towers remain intact.

The many events in the castle's fascinating history are illustrated in the interpretive centre. It has everything from touch screen technology, 3D models, discovery drawers to computer-

generated imagery, animations and projections.

There are games designed for kids and they can try on historic costumes like chainmail tunics or 18th century dresses. There is a spectacular, panoramic 360 degree view from the tallest turret.

The castle courtyard bustles with activities as costumed characters interact with visitors

In peak season, the castle courtyard bustles with activities as costumed characters interact with visitors.

An archaeological dig in the grounds has been opened for viewing and is now connected with an archway into the bowels of the castle so people can see the great medieval hall excavated in the 1990s. For history buffs, some of the 1,000 items discovered during digs here are on display—some for the first time!



The castle towers have been dressed to recreate the daily operation of a military castle and new additions include a special education room and a new café.

Open year round - check website for exact times. Reservations are not necessary, except for groups. Lower rates are available by booking online.



Limerick has lots of fine examples of public art, monuments and memorials. From the county's roadside sculptures to celebrated figures immortalised in bronze in the city, there is a wonderful selection to wander about and see.

In the Georgian Quarter, several monuments are scattered among the greenery of People's Park. These include the high column honouring Limerick MP, Thomas Spring Rice, a restored Victorian drinking fountain and bandstand and the Children's Remembrance Plaque. In Pery Square, there are two memorials to military personnel. A short walk away, the 19th century Tait's Clock stands over Baker Place.



Outside Leamy House on Hartstonge Street is a bust of the author, Frank McCourt. Part of the building, the writer's former schoolhouse, is now a museum in his honour. On the upper end of O'Connell Street, there is a tall statue of the thoroughfare's namesake, political leader Daniel O'Connell. Further down O'Connell Street, between Cecil Street and Shannon Street is 'Players', a statue depicting a hurler and a rugby playertwin passions in Limerick. On Bedford Row stands a sculpture of renowned Limerick actor, Richard Harris, in his portrayal of King Arthur in the film, Camelot.

Outside Limerick City Hotel on Lower Mallow Street, the Broken Heart Memorial commemorates victims of

the Great Famine. Along the quays, there is also a memorial to merchant seamen and another to Limerick's hard-working dockers.

In Cruises Street, 'The Singer from Quimper' by Rowan Gillespie is permanently entertaining. In the Medieval Quarter, there are a host of landmarks including a statue of 'The Bard of Thomond', Michael Hogan, outside King John's Castle. Behind City Hall on the riverside walk, there



is a sculpture of a group of 'Wild Geese' set amid a fountain pool. On George's Quay, there is an unusual 'Anti-War Memorial' featuring two figurative metal busts.

Further afield on the UL campus, there are many pieces of art including Antony Gormley's 'Together and Apart' and the only sculpture by international Irish artist Sean Scully, Crann Saoilse (Wall of Light).

These items are just a taste of Limerick's public art offering. When exploring, make sure to be on the lookout for interesting pieces.

Lime Tree Theatre

Mary Immaculate College, Courtbrack Avenue 061-953400 www.limetreetheatre.ie **Belltable** 69 O'Connell Street 061-953400

www.limetreetheatre.ie

Limerick boasts two great theatre and performing arts venues in the Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable, two iconic venues in the city.

The 510 seat Lime Tree Theatre is located on the campus of Mary Immaculate College, only five minutes from the city centre. As one of the largest additions in the recent development project in the third level institution, the Lime Tree Theatre is both versatile and state-of-the-art.

The Lime Tree Theatre organisation also took over the programming and management of a second, smaller (220 capacity) venue, Belltable, which is located at 69 O'Connell Street.



Both venues host a wide range of live performances and film screenings, as well as other events including theatre, music, comedy, traditional arts, children's shows and conferences. Their year round programme incorporates all these art forms and more.

Nationally and internationally renowned companies have graced the stages of both venues and the programme is diverse and wide ranging.

Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable offer refreshments and bar service on

performance nights and offers pretheatre dinner deals with a number of nearby eateries.

Belltable Box Office opening times are Monday-Saturday at 69 O'Connell Street from 12-6pm. The Lime Tree Theatre Box Office is open Monday-Friday from 2-5.30pm. Box office is also open for two hours before a performance in the venue in which the performance is taking place. For both venues current programme details, see www.limetreetheatre.ie.



University Concert Hall

Foundation Building, University of Limerick, Castletroy 061-331549 www.uch.ie

University Concert Hall is a 1,000 seat multi-purpose entertainment venue located on the beautiful University of Limerick campus which this year celebrates its 25th Anniversary!

Winner of the Limerick Chamber Award, Best Sport, Art and Culture category in both 2015 and 2016, as well as the 2014 IMRO Award for Munster Live Music Venue of the Year, UCH boasts a hugely varied, year round programme which caters for all tastes whether your passion is opera, comedy, music, drama or pantomime!

Some of the biggest names in their fields have performed on the UCH stage, from comedians Jimmy Carr, Dara O'Briain and Billy Connolly, singer/songwriters Van Morrison, Imelda May (pictured above), Albert Hammond and legendary Irish musician Christy Moore to large scale opera, the annual Irish Chamber Orchestra season and performances by the RTÉ National

Symphony and Concert Orchestras.
There is truly something for everyone.

At Christmas bring the family to what is regarded as one of the best pantos in Ireland, and the only full scale professional production in the region, starring national celebrities and local stars alike!

Some of the biggest names in their fields have performed on the UCH stage

Come early and dine in one of the oncampus restaurants, have a drink at the bar, browse the Watercolour Collection of Ireland located in the lobby, then sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

A visit to University Concert Hall is a truly unique experience.

Check out www.uch.ie for full listings or keep in touch on Facebook (@UniversityConcertHall), Twitter (@UCHLimerick) or Instagram (@uchlimerick).

Venues Aplenty

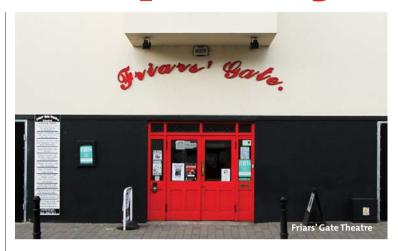
Aside from larger scale venues, Limerick doesn't want for performance spaces of all shapes and sizes.

Dolan's Warehouse (061-314483; www.dolans.ie) is a venue beloved among musicians and fans alike for its electric atmosphere. The renowned live music venue, adjoining Dolan's Pub and Restaurant facing Limerick Docks, has played host to hundreds of leading music, comedy and theatrical artists since 1998. The KASBAH Social Club next door to Dolan's (061-314483; www.facebook.com/KASBAHsocialclub) is another good spot for live music.

Located on Sarsfield street, **Pharmacia** doubles as a cocktail bar
and event venue, popular with a youthful
crowd, and regularly features live bands,
DJs and theme nights.

A Limerick mainstay since the 1960s, Jerry Flannery's bar on Catherine Street has recently extended its offerings to include a gig venue. A well liked hangout for Munster Rugby fans, the new extension is sure to make Flannery's even more popular with regulars and newcomers alike.

Friars' Gate Theatre in Kilmallock (063-98727; www.friarsgate.ie) has a diverse, year-round programme of theatre, music, visual art and other cultural events. The Honey Fitz



Theatre near Lough Gur is used both as a theatre and community hall. It hosts occasional events, often for the Lough Gur Dramatic Society and the Lough Gur Storytelling Festival at Halloween (061-385386; www.loughgur.com/honey-fitz-theatre).

Dance Limerick is based in a beautifully refurbished former church in the city's John's Square—hosting dance and other artistic events (061-467813; www.dancelimerick.ie).

The Millennium Theatre in Limerick Institute of Technology (061-293190; www.litmt.ie) hosts performances of all

types and The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL has regular concerts and dance recitals (www.irishworldacademy.ie).

Played host to hundreds of leading music, comedy and theatrical artists

Limerick Writers' Centre (www. limerickwriterscentre.com) runs regular literary events in venues including the café in Arthur's Quay Park, Chez le Fab. A new addition to Limerick's arts scene is the Limerick Theatre and Performance Hub A.K.A The Gaff based in Red Cross Hall on Cecil Street (www. thegafflimerick.com). It is a resource and development space as well as a venue. The Loft venue (061-413733; www. lockebar.com) overhead the Locke Bar on George's Quay is a multi-purpose venue hosting occasional music, theatre and comedy events.

Live music is the most common form of entertainment in local bars. In the past few years, site-specific events are more common too so non-typical venues are often used. Keep an eye on local press and www.limerick.ie for up to date event listings.





Limerick has an excellent range of festivals and events all year round with something to suit everyone.

Festivals & Events









From sports to literature, family fun to music, Limerick hosts a wide variety of festivals all year round. There are well over 40 cultural events in any given year in Limerick and below is just a taste...

February

Readers and writers both can enjoy a host of readings, discussions and more for the **Limerick Literary Festival**, which is held in honour of prominent Limerick writer, Kate O'Brien. (www.limerickliteraryfestival.com)

March

Mid-month, the streets come alive with the Limerick St. Patrick's Day Festival. The St. Patrick's Day parade on 17 March attracts up to 70,000 spectators. The festival also incorporates the Limerick International Band Championship—a hotly contested competition to find the best marching band.

The **Fresh Film Festival** screens the work of young filmmakers and holds workshops in March.

(www.freshfilmfestival.net)

April

The Éigse Michael Hartnett Poetry, Arts & Literary Festival takes place in Newcastle West in Co. Limerick (www. eigsemichaelhartnett.ie). Honouring the well-known poet, it includes lectures, poetry readings and more.

Also launching in April will be the much anticipated EVA International, Ireland's Biennial of contemporary art. Over the course of twelve weeks a number of exhibitions and events will take place across venues all over the city, allowing visitors the chance to attend talks and view pieces by the best contemporary artists working today. (www.eva.ie)

From the 4th-7th April the Limerick Fringe Festival will be taking over the city, offering cabaret, comedy, dance, music, theatre, and family events. A non-profit which supports and encourages arts and culture in Limerick, the Fringe is not to be missed!

(www.limerickfringe.com)

May

Arguably the biggest event on the local calendar is **Riverfest**, which gets the entire city into party mode. A celebration of all that is great about Limerick, there are barbeques, fireworks, markets, street performances and much more. (www.limerick.ie/riverfest).

Bon Secours Hospital **Great Limerick Run** (held at the end of the Bank Holiday weekend) has grown hugely since it began a few short years ago, attracting thousands of participants. The road race through the city caters for walkers and runners of all abilities right up to marathon level. (www.greatlimerickrun.com)

Outside the city in Abbeyfeale is the famous **Fleadh by the Feale**, a traditional music festival taking place over the May bank holiday, offering trad fans a chance to watch and participate in musical performances, competitions and workshops. (fleadhbythefeale.com)



June

The Limerick Sings International Choral Festival this month (www. limericksings.com) is a non-competitive celebration of choral music.

Alliance Francaise Trés Court
International Film Festival takes place
June 1st - 10th.
(www.trescourt.com/limerick)

Described as "a festival of the curious mind," the **Tomcat Street Festival** is a celebration of a diverse range of arts and activities, offering everything from music, dance, and photography to artistic installations and workshops. Taking place on the 2nd of June, this festival has something for everyone.

From the 9th to 17th of June a number of free cycling related events will be taking place across the city as part of the **BeSpoke Cycling Festival**. Get on your bike and celebrate all things bicycle!

July

Ireland's largest tag rugby festival, the **Pig 'n' Porter Festival** attracts teams from all over Ireland and the world for fun and sport. (www.pignporter.com)

Limerick turns rainbow coloured during the Limerick LGBTQ Pride Festival during the summer (www.limerickpride. ie). The lively and positive atmosphere celebrates Limerick's diverse culture. The programme includes a pride parade and the crowning of Mr and Mrs Gay Limerick as well as other artistic and information events.

On July 28th the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum will host the Foynes Air Show. Offering an opportunity to learn about the history of Foynes and the aviation industry in ireland, the air show promises to be a spectacular afternoon for all. (foynesairshow.com)

Perfect for lovers of literature is the annual **Weekend of Words**, a literary festival hosted by local group, Stanzas, to celebrate poetry, short stories, and spoken word by emerging writers. (stanzas.ie)

August

In August Limerick will host the annual **Bring Your Limericks to Limerick Festival**, a three day celebration of literature, arts and culture.

From August 9th to 16th, the Fusion Fighters Dance Crew will host the Fusion Dance Fest, a celebration of dance in forms as diverse as Irish dance, tap, contemporary and hip hop. Across the eight days there will be a variety of workshops, seminars, and events, and the festival will culminate with a student showcase at the Millennium Theatre, followed by a trip to the Fleadh Cheoil. (www.fusiondancefest.com)

As part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, in the last week of August a number of events will be taking place across Limerick for National Heritage Week. This year's theme is "Sharing Stories" and is sure to offer visitors a unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate local history and heritage.



September

From September to October there will be a celebration of Limerick's vibrant culinary scene with the **Pigtown Limerick: Culture and Food Series.**The festival will offer a number of talks on history, and topical foodrelated issues, as well as walking tours, workshops, and tasting events definitely a must-visit for any gourmet! (www.pigtown.ie)

The Limerick Jazz Festival attracts the best Irish and international contemporary jazz artists (www.limerickjazzfestival. com). For a broader display of Limerick's cultural offering, the National annual event, Culture Night, is always bursting with events and late opening in Limerick's cultural hotspots.

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the finding of the **Ardagh Chalice**, and numerous celebrations are planned to commemorate this historic moment over the last two weekends of September. With a wide scope of events, from historical talks and re-enactments to sporting events and concerts, the Festival of the Ardagh Chalice is sure to be a vibrant and entertaining celebration of history. (www.stkieransheritage.ie)

October

The **Make a Move Festival** celebrates hip-hop culture and urban art, showcasing the creative talents and skills of dancers, rappers and graffiti artists among others. (www.makeamove.ie)

The Richard Harris International Film Festival marks the outstanding career of one of Limerick's most famous sons—actor, director and producer, Richard Harris (www.richardharrisfilmfestival. com). There are a variety events including film screenings.

Limerick holds the **Open House Festival of Architecture** every October.
(www.openhouselimerick.ie)

From the 9th to the 20th of October the city will celebrate the **Bualadh Bos Children's Festival**. With events such as theatre performances, readings, and workshops taking place in the Belltable and the Lime Tree Theatre, the festival promises to capture the imaginations of audiences young and old alike.

November

Taking place from the 8th - 11th of November, the **Light Moves Festival** of Screendance is a celebration of dance on film, and a must-see for all aficionados of media arts. Organised by the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and the Limerick Institute of Technology, Limerick's **Festival of Science** is an educational and exciting exploration of the role of science in our everyday lives. Catch some of the free events at various venues around the city.

December

At Christmas time, the city transforms into a winter wonderland which brings Santa Claus, ice skating, special markets, concerts and pantomimes to the city to warm the heart on chilly days.

The Limerick Christmas Racing
Festival (www.limerickraces.ie) is a
highlight of the festive celebrations in
Limerick. This four-day racing festival
features national hunt racing as well as
lots of extra entertainment at Limerick
Racecourse. The course has a year round
calendar of racing events too.

This is just a selection of the wonderful things taking place in Limerick throughout the year, and there are many more festivals and events to be discovered. Dates and details are subject to change.

See **www.limerick.ie** for more information.



Don't Miss!

- Seeing amazing sights and learning new facts while wtaking a walking or bus tour around Limerick.
- Setting your pulse racing with excitement with an active pursuit or adventure activity.
- * Shouting encouragement wuntil hoarse at a sports wmatch or event.
- Enjoying indoor fun at a play centre, bowling alley or cinema.
- Getting out in the fresh air in a city park or county beauty spot.
- Using Limerick as a gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's vast coastal driving route.

Walking Tours & More

f you fancy exploring on shanks' mare as the old saying goes, Limerick offers a variety of interesting walking tours.

There are two guides who run guided walking tours leaving periodically from Limerick Tourist Office on 20 O'Connell Street. The tours on offer include **Historical Limerick** and the *Angela's Ashes* Walking Tour—which takes in places mentioned in Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize winning memoir. The tours cover many notable locations in the city. Call 061-317522 or see www.limerick.ie for more information on these tours and booking.

Limerick Civic Trust runs walking tours of Limerick twice daily on weekdays—leaving from its HQ, Bishop's Palace. The general tour covers the history of Limerick on the Shannon from 9th century to the modern day. The trust is happy to help arrange expertly-

guided tours as additional extras to its walking tours, focusing on specific aspects of local history. For more information on these, call 061-313399 or see www.limerickcivictrust.ie/walkingtours

Historical Limerick Up Close and Personal is a tour by the community project, St Mary's AID. The tour takes in St Mary's Cathedral, the Hunt Museum, the Treaty Stone and King John's Castle, for example and the price includes a complimentary tea/coffee at Hunt Museum Café. For more information, call 087-6163250 or see stmarysaid.blogspot.ie.

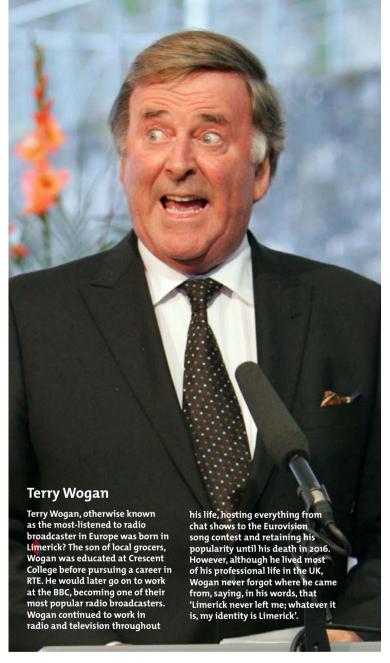
Limerick City Walking Tours with The Hunt Museum is another option, promising captivating stories of Limerick's past and present and a chance to experience the architecture, history and folklore of the city. Tours depart from the museum on Rutland Street and times can be tailored to suit you. Further information available at 083-3000111, 061-312833

If you want to tour the main sights in a horse-drawn carriage, **Limerick Carriage Tours** (085-1578356; www.limerickcarriagetours.com) can do just that.

There are a few self-guided options in County Limerick such as the free downloadable audioguide to Bruff, available from www.visitballyhoura. com, and a tour of Kilmallock on www.abartaaudioguides.com.

There are other guided/walking tours of sites in the county available too for Lough Gur, Griston Bog in Ballyhoura and Desmond Castle in Adare, for example.

For more information on tours in Limerick, see www.limerick.ie.



DID YOU KNOW? Living Bridge The University of Limerick has one of the longest footbridges in Europe, called the Living Bridge. The bridge connects two sections of the sprawling campus in Plassey. Designed by acclaimed London architecture firm, Wilkinson Eyre Architects, the bridge is lit up by night.

TIMELINE

Limerick History

812 – A settlement at Limerick is founded by the Vikings.

1197 – Limerick City gets a Charter of incorporation from King John 1 of England.

1212 – King John's Castle completed.

1650/51- Oliver Cromwell's forces besiege the city. The opposing force of Irish Confederate Catholics and English Royalists eventually surrender.

1690 - Jacobite forces are besieged by the Williamite army in Limerick.

1691 – Second siege of Limerick by Williamite forces. Treaty of Limerick is signed as Jacobites surrender.

1765- Edmund Sexton Pery commissions an engineer to plan a new city on his land. 'Newtown Pery' makes up a large portion of the city's central business district today.

1852- Limerick Market Trustees are incorporated, running the city's markets.

1877- People's Park opens to the public.

1919- Limerick's self declared 'Soviet' lasts for 12 days in April.

1942- Shannon Airport begins to operate.

1972- First enrolment of students in Limerick's National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE), which later becomes the University of Limerick in 1989.

1979- Pope John Paul II visits Limerick.

1981- The Belltable Arts Centre is established.

1998- US President, Bill Clinton, visits Limerick.

2010- Limerick hosts the Special Olympics Ireland Games

2011- Limerick is designated as European City of Sport

2014- Limerick City is the first Irish city to be national City of Culture.

Shannon Ferries

Killimer, Kilrush, Co. Clare 065-9053124 www.shannonferries.com

'A gateway between the South and Mid-West', Shannon Ferries offer a ferry service between counties Kerry and Clare, saving travellers a huge 137 kilometres of driving! Offering an unrivalled service to tourists and locals alike, allowing them to take in more of Ireland's beautiful scenery and tourist hotspots with ease, Shannon Ferries links the picturesque Tralee and Dingle regions to the untamed beauty of the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher.

Established in 1969 in response to the demand for a route across the Shannon Estuary from Kerry to Clare, the Shannon Ferries service now operates two ferries, the Shannon Breeze and the Shannon Dolphin, which depart from Tarbert in Co. Kerry to Killimer in Co. Clare.

Ideally located on the Wild Atlantic Way, Shannon Ferries offers travellers a break from the road with their 20 minute passage across the Shannon. Aiming to



promote tourism in Kerry and Clare, as well as surrounding regions, Shannon Ferries facilitates laid back, enjoyable travel.

Choose from the mixture of majestic mountains and ever changing coastlines, lakelands, woodlands and bustling towns in Kerry, or the equally majestic Atlantic coastline in Clare. Loop Head is one of the most remote and wonderful places in Ireland. The Loop Head Drive will take you to numerous scenic locations as well as to cliff angling spots. The County of Limerick is a place of rural charm and

great beauty, with a gently undulating landscape that varies from the mountains of Ballyhoura in the Golden Vale to the Shannon Estuary. With Shannon Ferries, the possibilities are endless and there is something to suit everyone! You might even get to see a dolphin or two!

The service accommodates pedestrian passengers, cyclists, cars, coaches, mini-buses, and commercial vehicles, with ticket prices starting at €4.50. Throughout the summer months, the ferries run from 7.00am to 9.30pm. Visit the website for more information.



Nevsail Watersports and Rock Climbing 086-3308236

www.nevsailwatersports.ie www.limerickadventures.ie

For your next adventure why not give Nevsail Watersports and Rock Climbing a go? Operating over 13 years in Limerick City and Kilkee in Co. Clare, Nevsail Watersports and Rock Climbing offers adventure and fun for everyone. Owner Dave Neville wants to share his love of adventure and outdoor activity in a safe and friendly environment.

From the Hunt Museum in Limerick you can try your hand at kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, raft building, sailing and boating tours, and sessions along the mighty Shannon. Nevsail's indoor rock climbing wall (also based in the city) offers rock climbing, abseiling, archery, archery

tag, orienteering, treasure hunts, team challenges, and lots more such as our NEW Abseiling Thomond Park Adventures.

With great rates available, Nevsail has a proven track record in safe, fun-filled friendly adventure (all staff are fully qualified). Anyone can take part from the age of 4+ years and no previous skills or knowledge is needed, (beginners to advanced participants are all welcome).

Proven track record in safe, fun-filled friendly adventure

Nevsail caters for individuals, small to large group outings such as birthday parties, family gatherings, cubs/scouts/girl guides, school tours, stags/hens, work/sports and social outings, and corporate groups. Kids/teens watersports and adventure camps are also available.

Nevsail also operates an adventure centre from Kilkee in Co. Clare if you happen to be travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way. See the website for more information.



Paddywagon Tours

Unit 4, Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre 061-419341 www.paddywagontours.com

With top reviews across Tripadvisor, not to mention being voted 'Most Fun Tour' by close to a million travellers from across the world, Paddywagon Tours is a safe bet if you're looking to see Ireland and have the craic!

With a range of day-long tours running all year round from Limerick, there's no better way to see the beautiful Irish landscape. Tours include Dingle (encompassing Inch beach, Ventry, the Beehive Huts, Slea Head grotto and Clogherhead), the Ring of Kerry (Killorglin, Dingle Bay, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Killarney National Park and

Torc Waterfall), and the Cliffs of Moher (Doolin, the Burren, Bunratty Castle and, of course, the cliffs).

Paddywagon also caters for private hire so you can design your own tour for groups and special occasions.

Paddywagon Tours is a safe bet if you're looking to see Ireland and have the craic!

Each Paddywagon comes armed with free Wi-Fi on board so sharing all your travel snaps with your friends is a breeze.

Paddywagon does everything from two-day to nine-day tours from its headquarters in Dublin and also has hostels countrywide.

Visit the Limerick office for information, bookings, gifts and souvenirs. Be sure to check the Facebook and Twitter pages regularly for special offers and competitions. Avail of 10% discount using code: limck10



DID YOU KNOW?

Irish Coffee

Irish coffee, a brew infused with native whiskey, is said to have been invented in Limerick village, Foynes, in 1943. Chef, Joe Sheridan - who worked in the seaplane terminal there - devised it to warm some passengers up one chilly night. Today, there is a festival in the village on the June Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the birth of this unique treat.

Golf in Limerick

Golf is a passion in the mid-west and aside from those profiled here, there are many other fine courses to be found in Limerick and in nearby counties.

In city suburbs, you can find well-maintained parkland courses at the municipal course in Rathbane Golf Club and another at Castletroy Golf Club. Ballyneety Golf Club is just under 10 km south of the city.

There are also a number of parkland courses a short distance away in County Limerick at Adare (Adare Golf Club,

located at Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort and Adare Manor Golf Course), Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale as well as in Charleville in north Cork and Shannon, Ennis and Dromoland in Clare.

If you fancy some stunning coastal scenery to accompany your game you can find fantastic links courses in Lahinch and Doonbeg in Clare and Ballybunion in Kerry.

If you wish to perfect your short game, Monaleen Pitch & Putt will have you putting like a pro while the driving range in Coonagh or Ballyneety are a great place to work on strategies to hit the fairway every time.



The Best Of Ireland Series



From the 'Red Army' to the 'Super Blues' to the green and white of GAA, Limerick is famous for its sporting prowess. ot only has the Treaty City produced a large number of great sports people but also has a reputation for excellent facilities and resounding support. Sport is so prevalent that Limerick had the honour of being the European City of Sport. Not bad for the third largest city in a small nation like Ireland!

Sport is woven into the fabric of the city. Rugby, hurling, Gaelic football and soccer are the most popular sports around the city with teams from school children right up to senior levels. Cricket, boxing, basketball, tennis, golf, handball, athletics and more are also played. With the river Shannon such a prominent feature, it is no wonder that rowing is another widespread pursuit.

Munster Rugby has a huge presence but club rugby in city and county has enjoyed a lot of success too, with many players rising through the ranks to represent province and country.

Limerick GAA is another giant on the sporting landscape. The Shannonsiders' jerseys bears the legend 'Sporting Limerick' instead of a traditional sponsor. This is a non-commercial entity that aims to capture "all that is good and positive about Limerick sport".

The logo is carried by several other teams and bodies and available to everyone. This initiative is strongly supported by millionaire businessman and philanthropist, JP McManus. McManus is a lifelong GAA fan and there are many more like him who turn out in their thousands for home games in the Gaelic Grounds during GAA season. The Gaelic Grounds is the largest capacity stadium in the city with space for nearly 50,000 people.

Both the men's and ladies' teams have done their county proud many times. In 2014, the Limerick Senior Hurling team made it to the semi-final of the All Ireland Championship, while the Minor team won the Munster title. In 2013, the Limerick Senior and Minor teams won their respective Munster titles and both made it to the semi-final of the All Ireland. The senior team has won around 18 provincial, seven All Ireland championships and 38 other honours between all levels and competitions.



In camogie (ladies' hurling), the county team has won honours in various categories at national level. Limerick's Intermediate camogie team won the 2014 All Ireland title.

In Gaelic football, the senior team has won two All Ireland championships and 12 other honours. The local club championships are fiercely contested, as are the schools competitions. For fixtures and information, see www.limerickgaa.ie.

Limerick also has a proud tradition of soccer. There are hundreds of local teams playing, from the schoolboy league upwards. Limerick FC is currently in the premier division of the League of Ireland. It has a rich history, winning several regional and Irish titles and competing in European competitions six times. Its home games are now played at its historical home at Market's Field. Fixtures and information are on www. limerickfc.ie.

Its stellar reputation has meant that Limerick has hosted many large sporting events. These have included the 2010 and 2014 Special Olympics Ireland Games, the World Rugby 7s 2014 and 2015, the All-Ireland Corporate Games, the 2008 and 2009 Irish Open Golf Championships, the JP McManus Pro-Am, the European Duathlon Championships and the World Powerlifting Championships.

The motto of the Munster Rugby team is 'To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible'

The motto of the Munster Rugby team is "To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible" and Limerick natives have taken that to heart, taking on amazing tasks of endurance. Sean McGowan was

A reputation for excellent facilities and resounding support

the first Irishman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Rob Mortell was the youngest Irishman to summit Mount Everest. During an illustrious climbing career, in which he won accolades for heroism, Ger McDonnell was the first Irishman to reach the top of K2. He died in a tragic accident on his descent.

Limerick people have excelled in many other sporting endeavours. Boxers, Andy Lee and Willie Casey, contested many a fight for European and World titles. Limerick physical therapist, Ger Hartmann treats many world-class athletes. Tennis player, Conor Niland, played at Wimbledon in 2011. Just a few of Limerick's sports personalities include many rugby stars like Peter Clohessy and Paul O'Connell, Olympic rower Sam Lynch, GAA legends, Mick Mackey and Ciarán Carey, International soccer player, Al Finucane and Transplant Games medal-winner, John Loftus.

With thousands of Limerick's young people participating in sports regularly, its heritage will live on for a long while yet. 'Sporting Limerick' will continue to draw the crowds to behold its success.







In Limerick, rugby union is less a past-time and more a passion which has endured for over 130 years.

For a relatively small city, Limerick punches well above its weight in terms of the quality of its club rugby teams and has produced countless fine players for the professional and international field of play.

The sport is played widely in city and county, at all levels from schoolchildren up to the provincial team. Munster.

Where rugby elsewhere has an image of being somewhat a sport for the elite, rugby has traditionally cut across all classes in Munster. With a band of supporters known as 'the Red Army', Munster Rugby has been a fixture in Limerick since 1879, based at Thomond Park Stadium (the team also plays games at Irish Independant Park in Cork).

The city is often 'painted red' with everything from flags to shop fronts for matches because of the proud tradition of the sport.

Its striking motto is "To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible". This adage has held strong over the years. Even before rugby turned into a professional sport in Ireland, Munster beat several international touring sides including Australia and New Zealand.

In the late nineties and early 2000s, Munster reached the finals of the European Cup twice only to be disappointed. After numerous daring attempts, Munster won the prestigious cup in 2006 and again in 2008. Giant screens broadcasted these finals live to thousands of people in the city centre. This was in addition to thousands of fans who attended the games, so Munster is famous for its fervent supporters as well as its winning ways.

Munster Rugby is bolstered in part by strong Limerick club sides

Munster also competes in the Pro-12 league, with teams from Scotland, Wales and Italy, and has also won that several times.

Munster Rugby is bolstered in part by strong Limerick club sides. Since the All Ireland League started, it has been dominated by teams from the city. Three clubs, Shannon, Garryowen and Young Munster, have won the competition 13 times between them. Other prominent Limerick clubs are Old Crescent, UL Bohemians, St. Mary's, Thomond, Richmond and Bruff.

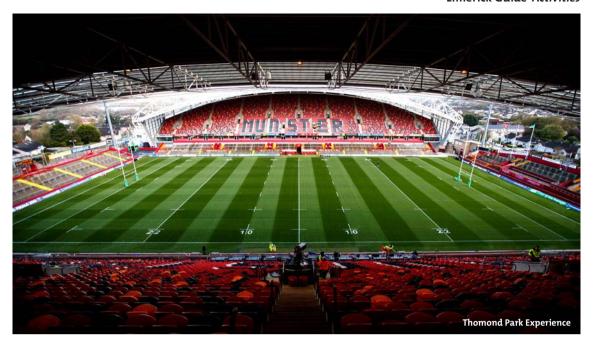
The popularity of women's rugby is also on the rise and Limerick women have often been fixtures on Ireland and Lions squads. Joy Neville from the city is considered one of the greats of the game and is now a referee.

Local secondary schools like Crescent College Comprehensive, St. Munchin's College and Ardscoil Rís have also enjoyed much success in junior and senior provincial competitions.

Renowned rugby players from Limerick include Colm Tucker, Tom Clifford, Mick English, Gerry McLoughlin, Peter Clohessy, Paul Wallace, Anthony Foley, John Hayes, Paul O'Connell, Eoin Reddan, Marcus Horan, David Wallace, Jerry Flannery, Conor Murray and Keith Earls...the list goes on!

The Pig'n'Porter, the largest tag rugby festival in the world, is held in Limerick every July and in 2014 and 2015, Thomond Park hosted the World Rugby 7s competition.

The love of rugby in Limerick has spawned many texts. *Alone it Stands* by local playwright, John Breen has toured nationally and abroad. The play is about Munster's win against the All Blacks in 1978. The former editor of *The Limerick Leader* newspaper, Alan English English (now group editorial director of Iconic Newspapers), has written two bestselling books on Munster Rugby and was also the ghost-writer on Paul O'Connell's autobiography, *The Battle*.



Thomond Park Experience

061-421100 www.thomondpark.ie

Limerick has often been referred to as the spiritual home of Irish rugby and part of that is due to the fearsome reputation of the provincial team, Munster Rugby, and their base at the mighty Thomond Park Stadium.

Munster Rugby has grown into a global brand since the sport of rugby turned professional. The humble provincial pitch was transformed into a world-class stadium in 2008. Holding nearly 27,000 people on match days, the venue is famed for its unique atmosphere

for games and events such as concerts with the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Elton John.

The spiritual home of Irish rugby

For an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the players themselves, there is a stadium tour available, which gives visitors unprecedented 'back stage' access. Visitors can see the home and away dressing rooms, press conference areas, the Munster dug-out and walk down the tunnel to stand on the hallowed pitch.

The tour also includes a visit to the Munster Experience museum. The history of Munster and Thomond Park is outlined with lots of memorabilia and interactive/multimedia exhibits that allow you to practice your line-out skills, among other things. The museum and stadium tour is open on a daily basis (groups can be catered for too).

The newest additions include a Fan Zone Plaza, a dedicated Family Fun Zone area, a revamp of the Guinness Dug Out Bar and upgraded food and beverage facilities—all adding to the ultimate match-day experience.

The stadium also includes a first class range of conference and banqueting facilities. It can host conferences, gala dinners, exhibitions, weddings and all types of functions, large and small.

For further information contact:

Museum & Stadium Tours
061 421109; museum@thomondpark.ie
Conference & Banqueting
061 421129/00; events@thomondpark.ie
General Enquiries
061 421100; info@thomondpark.ie.







DID YOU KNOW?

Local Cinema

Cinema has always been one of Limerick's most popular pursuits. Aside from the three cinemas operating here currently, at least 13 cinemas of various sizes and locations existed previously in the city and environs—often doubling as concert halls and dance venues. The county town of Dromcollogher was the site of one of the biggest fire disasters in Irish history when 48 people died in a timber barn being used as a temporary cinema in 1926. The fire started when a candle ignited a reel of nitrate film stock.

Broadcasting Legend

Ciarán Mac Mathúna, famous radio broadcaster and authority on Irish music, was born in Limerick in 1925. He spent his life travelling around Ireland, the British Isles and America collecting music, songs, stories and poetry to ensure their preservation. He joined Radio Éireann in 1954, where he recorded many Irish traditional musicians. He began his Sunday morning radio series Mo Cheol Thú in 1970 and the programme continued for 35 years.

Riverdance

Composer, musician and producer, Bill Whelan, was born in Limerick in 1950. He is perhaps best known for composing *Riverdance*. It began as a seven minute piece, accompanying a dazzling display of Irish dancing, for the interval of the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest but became a full-length stage production. The original piece was released as a single, reaching Number 9 in the UK charts. He composed several film scores and played with several bands including Planxty and Stockton's Wing. As a producer, he has worked with U2, Van Morrison and Kate Bush to name a few.

Mr Writer

Author, Kevin Barry, was born in Limerick in 1969. Widely travelled and now living in Sligo, he won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for his first short story collection, There are Little Kingdoms, in 2007. In 2011, his debut novel, City of Bohane, was published and subsequently won the prestigious International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 2013.

Buried Treasure

One of Ireland's greatest treasures, the Ardagh Chalice, was found in County Limerick in 1868. Two boys digging in a field near a ring fort discovered the artefact among a large hoard of objects. The silver chalice is thought to be from the Early Christian period (around the 8th century) and is decorated with enamel, gold, bronze, pewter and brass. The chalice now resides in the National Museum of Ireland (Archaeology) in Dublin.

Sheeran's Girl

Pop hitmaker Ed Sheeran is a big fan of Irish traditional music and Antrim-based trad/folk outfit, Beoga, are featured on his latest album, Divide. The fiddle player and vocalist in the band is Limerick native, Niamh Dunne, and Sheeran recently revealed that she inspired the song, 'Galway Girl'. Niamh's father, Mickey, is a well-known piper. Beoga have enjoyed international success in their own right; the band's third album was shortlisted for a Grammy award.



A Night at the Dogs

Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Greenpark, Dock Road Bookings: 061-448080 Stadium Direct: 061-448000 www.limerickgreyhoundstadium.ie

A night at Limerick Greyhound Stadium provides live, adrenaline pumped entertainment. Top class facilities ensure it is comfortable to watch the action from inside and out. There is live racing on Fridays and Saturdays. Gates open at 6.30pm and the first race is at 7.40pm.

The state of the art stadium caters for all occasions—family events, team nights, corporate nights, hen/stag parties and fundraisers for non-profit organisations.

The Leger Restaurant offer stunning panoramic views of the stadium, excellent food, Tote betting at your table and also the option of a private hospitality suite. The hospitality suites offer an excellent opportunity for both private functions—whether it be an offsite night for a corporate group, a venue for a stag/hen party activity such as cocktail making or a private dinner. The restaurant offers a wide range of four course set menus to suit all tastes.

There are two bars within the stadium—The Mezz Bar (located on the mezzanine level) provides a more relaxed and informal racing experience. The Market's Field Bar on the ground floor is a nod to the former home of Limerick Greyhound Racing from 1932 to 2010.

With excellent entertainment and delicious fare on offer every weekend at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, there has never been a better time to 'go to the dogs'! Prices start from as little as €10 per person, visit their website for pricing and the latest offers.

There has never been a better time to 'go to the dogs'

Here is some information for visitors from abroad: Bonjour, Hallo, Ola and Ciao.

Français: Profiter d'une soirée passionante de courses de lévriers. De

courses chaque vendredi ed samedi. Portes sont ouvertes 18.30; première course 19.40. Merveilleux restaurant disponsibles.

Deutsch: Genießen Sie einen spannenden Abend des Windhundrennen. Racing jeden Feitag and Samstag. Tore sind offen 18.30; erstes Rennen 19.40. Wundervolles restaurant verfügbar

Español: Disfrutar de una noche emocionante de las carreras de galgos. Competir con todos los viernes y sábados. Puertas están abiertas 18.30; primera Carrera 19.40. Maravilloso restaurante disponible

Italiano: Godere di una serata emozionante di corse di livrieri. Corse ogni Venerdì e Sabato. Gates sono aperti 18.30; primo Race 19.40. Meraviglioso ristorante disponbile.





There is plenty for families and children of all ages to see and do in Limerick whatever the weather or location. From tiny tots to teens, there are activities to suit everyone.

For a swim, you can pay a visit to a number of facilities. The 50 m swimming pool at the **Sports Arena** in the University of Limerick (061-213555) also makes for happy splashing. **Grove Island Leisure Centre** (061-350221) has a 25 metre swimming pool and two kids' pools. Both the UL Arena and Grove Island have gyms too and UL has a multitude of other sporting facilities like running tracks, tennis courts and sports fields.

If you want to play at being Rory McIlroy, try your hand at **Monaleen Pitch & Putt** (087-6954839) or **Adare Pitch & Putt** (087-6963420).

For something a little different, why not try some roller skating at **Rollerjam** (061-422500) or rock climbing at the **Nevsail** indoor climbing wall (086-3308236)? Take to the skies with your feet on the ground with flight simulation at **Atlantic Airventure** (061-363687) in Shannon.

For an exhilarating rush, go-karting is an exciting option. Make sure and check suitability for younger children. Rev

up at **Delta Karting** (061-603603), the **National Kart Centre** (061-340161) or **Kilcornan Karting** (061-393733).

Rain needn't put a dampener on plans because there are several great indoor activity centres offering a vast array of fun forays for kids. From imaginative play to super energetic physical play, these facilities have it all. They include Tons of Fun (061-431141), Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre (061-423994), Formula for Fun (061-603200) and Kids Town (061-348111).

You can get up close with a whole host of animals, from goats to llamas and sheep to owls

In good weather, then a trip to either **Buttercup Farm** (061-397556) and **Stonehall Visitor Farm** (061-393940) is a must. You can get up close with a whole host of animals, from goats to llamas and sheep to owls. There are picnic areas and other activities on site too.

For older kids and teens, Funworld (061-325088) offers bowling, pool tables and arcade games.

A unique venue in Europe, Limerick's **Dreamland** is an inclusive, accessible, purpose built centre for disabled and sick children. Located at Park Point, Dreamland offers all children the chance to play no matter their ability. (dreamland.ie)

A past winner of "Best Garden in Ireland," the Terra Nova Fairy Garden offers delights for visitors of all ages. Located in Kilmallock, in the heart of the Golden Vale, the weaving pathways, beautiful flowers, and nearby fairy fort give this garden a unique atmosphere, promising a truly magical experience for all .

The city and county are filled with free parks and playgrounds too. Horseriding and trekking are family-friendly activities and Limerick and its environs have several equestrian centres. There are also many child-oriented tours and activities at many of the city's heritage and cultural outlets.

For more ideas on family activities, this guide has lots of information features in this section and others. For even more suggestions, see www.limerick.ie.

Tons Of Fun Children's Activity Centre

Unit H1, Eastway Business Park, Ballysimon Road V94 NP40 061-431141 www.tonsoffun.ie

Safe, clean and secure, Tons of Fun provides a fun-filled soft play and adventure experience for children aged between 0-10 years (height restriction up to 147cm).

The play areas are allocated to different age groups, with two areas dedicated to babies and wobblers, with a mini-roundabout, ball pools, assorted soft toys, ball jugglers, and ball lifters. The junior play area for 3-5 year olds is on two levels, with double wavy slides, ball pool and climbing maze. A three-level adventure maze is offered for over 5's, with overhead crawling nets and runways, wavy and tubular slides.

Other amenities include a brand new and innovative sensory room, soccer and basketball pitch, mini trampolines, and a quiet playhouse area.

While the children are busy at play, adults can relax in the comfortable

seating areas and avail of magazines, newspapers and free Wi-Fi. The coffee shop is central to the facility and offers a range of hot and cold drinks, confectionery, freshly prepared snacks and hot food

A fun-filled soft play and adventure experience for children

The warm and friendly atmosphere makes Tons of Fun an ideal venue for birthday parties, school tours and corporate kids events.

Parent & Toddler sessions for preschoolers run weekday mornings during school term time, no booking required.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10am, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 11am, last entry is 5pm every day.

Check the website for current admission charges: discounts are offered for large groups and for children with special needs. Babies under 1 or not walking are free of charge.



Tons of Fun also operates a Balloon Shop on site, selling a wide variety of balloons, helium gas and accessories for all occasions. Wholesale and retail customers welcome

Plenty of free car parking is available outside the building. GPS: 52.649, -8.

Ballyhoura Trailriders

Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick 087-2717330 www.trailriders.ie

Based at the trailhead in Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick, you will find Trailriders, a first class mountain bike service provider. Established in 2007 by keen mountain bikers, Trailriders provides services to enhance your visit to the Ballyhoura Mountain Park.

They offer a rental fleet to cater for beginners through to the advanced thrill seeking bikers, with a selection of hardtail, full suspension and full suspension Ebike Hybrids for all the family to enjoy no matter what your fitness level - official Trek and Cube brands rental fleet. Their shop is stocked with a large selection of parts and equipment for your biking needs.

The experienced staff offer the best advice, to 'get the most out of your visit to Ballyhoura'. They will assist you to plan your route around the five looped 92 km trails. There is route to suit all capabilities and extreme thrill-seekers.

Get the most out of your visit to Ballyhoura

For the avid bikers, they provide a maintenance service. If you are keen to learn more about bike maintenance or improve your mountain biking skills, enquire about the Trailriders Workshops. Staff are MBLA certified. During the summer months, they offer summer camps for kids!

Trailriders is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am-6pm, September to June. Open seven days a week for July and August.









aturalist John Muir said
"everybody needs beauty
as well as bread, places to
play in and pray in, where
nature may heal and give strength to
body and soul" and there are plenty of
parks around Limerick where you can
take a break and recharge in the quiet
of a well-maintained park, away from
the hustle and bustle. Read on to learn
about the local parks to discover.

People's Park

Located at the heart of the Georgian Quarter, the People's Park in Pery Square was formally opened in 1877, and gifted to the people of Limerick City in memory of Richard Russell, a prominent local businessman.

People's Park boasts a number of interesting items including two gazebos, a 19th century bandstand and an ornate, restored drinking fountain.

In the middle of the park, there is a free-standing limestone column erected in 1829 by the Barrington family as a memorial for Thomas Spring Rice, MP to Limerick city in the 19th century.

More recent additions to the park include a children's playground.

The park has a large selection of mature, deciduous and evergreen trees such as ash, beech, elm, flowering cherry, hawthorn, lime, maple, oak, poplar and willow as well as a beautiful array of flowers.

The People's Park won the Best Local Park Special Category Award in 2003.

Arthur's Quay Park

By the banks of the River Shannon, opposite the Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre is Arthur's Quay Park. Populated by lime trees that surround a central plaza, the park has spectacular views of Curragour Falls and the Clare hills. The park was opened in January 1991 by former president Mary Robinson. It is often a venue for local events.









The Custom House Park

Behind the Hunt Museum, one can find the Custom House Park. This riverside park forms part of the riverside walk and contains some beautiful specimens of horse chestnut, London plane, maple and sycamore trees.

O'Brien Park

On Clare Street, your eye will be drawn to the freestanding concrete gateway with a classical triumphant arch that marks the entrance to the delightful O'Brien Park. Among the mature trees here you can find alder, birch, hornbeam, mountain ash, ornamental pear and whitebeam trees. There is also a park shelter and cast iron drinking fountain, as well as a small children's playground, which was updated in 2002.

Robert Byrne Park

Previously known as the Curragour Park, the Robert Byrne Park is situated on Clancy Strand. Sit beneath the lime trees and watch the river flow by or feed the famous Shannon swans.

Russell Park

Between the North Circular Road and Condell Road lies Russell Park, which is popular with walkers and runners. The park is well known for a glorious host of daffodils that appear in the springtime.

Shelbourne Park

Reopened in 2009 following extensive renovations, Shelbourne Park has a 710 metre looped walk for walkers and cyclists, two soccer pitches and a children's playground. It is located between Hassett's Cross and Union Cross.

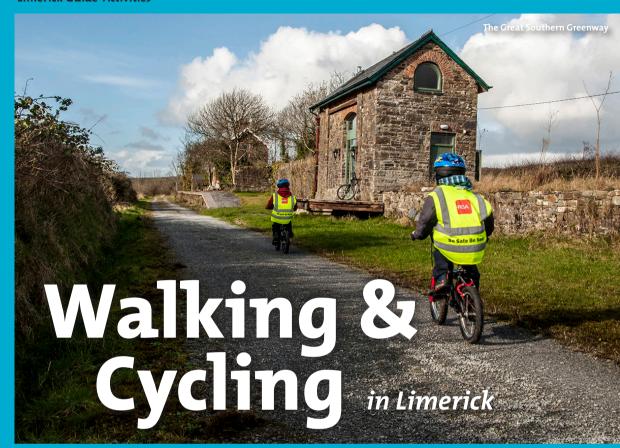
Mungret Park and Playground

Mungret in Co. Limerick is very close to the city suburbs and comprises of 3,000 square metres including walk and cycle paths. The extensive playground is specifically designed for both able and non able-bodied children and there is a sensory area for children on the autistic spectrum.

Mount Kennett Skate Park

Skateboarding and roller sports are quite popular in Limerick City and this riverside skate park caters to those needs. With smooth concrete, ramps and rails, this is a great space to practice tricks and perfect your skating. The riverside location provides excellent views of the adjacent bank and wildlife.

There are also a variety of playgrounds in the suburbs and the county like Castletroy, Adare, Abbeyfeale, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Doon, Foynes, Glin, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Murroe, Newcastle West and Rathkeale. See www.limerick.ie for details.



alking and cycling are some of the best ways to get fit and a multitude of designated walking routes and cycling trails are the perfect way to explore the sights, sounds and history of Limerick City.

Medieval Limerick Walking Trail

This 3 km trail can take anywhere between one and two hours to complete depending on how long you wish to linger on the various sights. Starting at Merchant's Quay with the Potato Market, County Courthouse, City Hall and St. Mary's Cathedral, the riverside and pavement walk takes you past the remains of the medieval city walls. Along the route you will see the Bishop's Palace, now home to the Limerick Civic Trust, and St. Munchin's Church. Crossing Thomond Bridge you will see King John's Castle and the Bard of Thomond Statue. The walk loops around back along to Fanning's Castle and Barrington's Hospital on George's Quay.

The Three Bridges Riverside Loop

This walk is similar to the medieval walk but also takes in the beauty of the Shannon River. The loop starts at Arthur's Quay travelling up towards the Hunt Museum through Arthur's Quay Park and the Custom House Park. Leaving King John's Castle follow Castle Street across the Thomond Bridge then turn left to see the Treaty Stone. The new riverfront boardwalk to Sarsfield Bridge provides excellent riverside views of the castle and City Hall. Continue straight on to Clancy Strand where the ramp at St. Michael's Boat Club will take you to the Shannon Bridge. Coming across the bridge and on to the quays, you will see the Seaman's and Dockers memorial, as well as a few pubs and restaurants if you have worked up an appetite. The underpass at Sarsfield Bridge will finish the loop.

A multitude of designated walking routes and cycling trails are the perfect way to explore the sights, sounds and history of Limerick City

City Centre Slí na Sláinte

The 3.8 km city centre Slí na Sláinte ('path of health' as designed by the Irish Heart Foundation) is best toured during daylight hours. The trail starts on the newly pedestrianised Bedford Row. The route goes down O'Connell Street, passing the Augustinian Church on the left, moving on to the Georgian Quarter, where you can visit the People's Park. The route turns up onto Barrington Street and continues down O'Connell Avenue

onto New Street. As you come around South Circular Road vou will see Mary Immaculate College on the left. Continue on to Henry Street to finish the loop at the bottom of Bedford Row

There are other Slí na Sláinte routes in the county, including one in Adare. See www.irishheart.ie for more information.

The Great Southern Greenway

A route for the more ambitious walker. The Great Southern Greenway is a unique 96km stretch of countryside which follows the now defunct Limerick to Tralee railway line. However, 40km of this route has been converted into an off-road walking and cycling trail. This trail begins in Rathkeale, and takes in the communities of Ardagh, Newcastlewest, Templeglantine, and Abbeyfeale. Featuring historical sights such as ancient castles and cemeteries, as well as stunning local scenery. The Great Southern Greenway is the perfect way to explore west Limerick.

The Broadford Ashford **Walking Trails**

Based around the Limerick villages of Broadford and Ashford, these walking trails follow six routes across the Mullaghareirk mountains - all specially selected to offer the most picturesque views of county Limerick. The six routes are An Gleann Beag Loop, the Gleann na gCapall Loop, the Killagholehane Way, the Broadford to Ashford Way, the Ashford to Lough Ghe Way and the Gortnaclohy Loop, and while these are "self-guided", there is a guided walk on the second Sunday of every month.

Limerick Smarter Travel

Limerick City has been designated a Smarter Travel Demonstration City and as such there have been a range of improvements aimed towards cyclists, such as bike lanes, installed across t he city.

There are a variety of off-road and on-road routes; perhaps the most popular link the city centre with the University of Limerick in a variety of ways but there are initiatives being added all the time. Check smartertravel.limerick.ie for more details.





There are also plenty of cycling and walking clubs in Limerick such as the Limerick Cycling Club, UL Mountain Bike Club and Limerick Climbing Club. For more information on local clubs, visit www.limerickcitysports.ie.

Limerick Red Mile

A new project for 2018, this year Limerick will place a spotlight on the ancient part of the city with The Red Mile. Running across King's Island from George's Quay to Thomond Park, The Red Mile will pass by some of the most interesting cultural and heritage sites in the city, ultimately leading walkers to celebrate their Limerick pride at the home of Munster Rugby. .



Bike Share

A bike sharing initiative has recently launched in Limerick City. Coca-Cola Zero® Bikes is a self-service bike rental service open to all from 14 years up. There are 23 stations (215 bikes) strategically located throughout the urban area. Stations have a terminal and stands for the bikes, which are locked in and released when hired. On return, the bike is locked back into a stand at any station and hire is then completed. Hire options include an annual subscription, a three-day pass and a pay as you go option (first 30 minutes free). In all cases, a security deposit is required. The bikes can be used for everything from commuting to sightseeing.

More information on www.bikeshare.ie.



Limerick City offers shopping, entertainment, sport, history, culture, family fun and more (outlined in this and other sections of the guide) but it doesn't have to mean a break from outdoor and adventure activities. Both city and county boast a range of attractive sights and active pursuits to enjoy.

Visitors can enjoy the mighty River Shannon in all its glory with a Limerick City Kayaking Tour from Nevsail Watersports & Rock Climbing (086-3308236). Nevsail also has an indoor climbing wall in the city and also offers activities like sailing, stand up paddleboarding, windsurfing, coasteering, powerboating and outdoor rock climbing at locations in Limerick and Clare.

Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre in east Limerick has a range of indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy from canoeing to orienteering, abseiling to basketball (063-91161). Team challenges are a speciality!

For face-paced mountain biking, the Ballyhoura area has over 90 km of cross country trails where you can get muddy on forest road climbs, get high on the steep inclines and try to keep steady on the tracks. Ballyhoura Trailriders in Ardpatrick (087-2717330, www. trailriders.ie) has the exclusive permit from Coillte to operate the Coillte Mountain Bike Trail here (the largest network of its kind in Ireland) and provides bike rental and other services too. Hiking and orienteering are also popular in Ballyhoura.

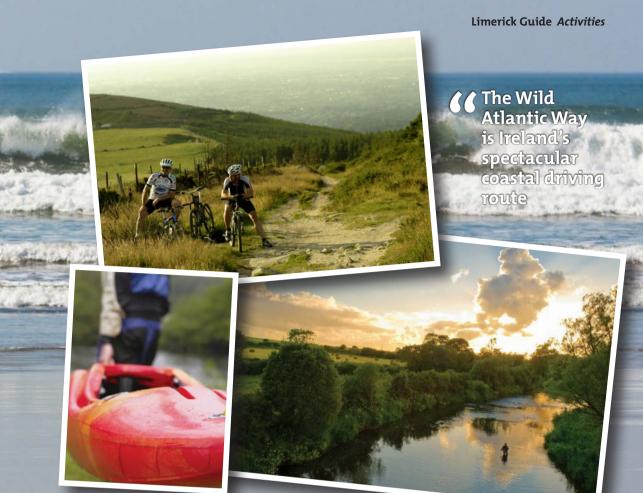
For lovers of all things equestrian, you can engage in horse-riding, trekking and other variations at many sites including Clonlara Equestrian Centre in Clonlara (061-354172/087-6892373); Boskill Equestrian Centre

in Caherconlish (085-7673468) and **Clonshire Equestrian Centre** in Adare (061-396770).

Limerick has several great angling locations. Plassey and Annacotty (both close to the University of Limerick) are popular fishing spots, as is Castleconnell. Bleach Lough, between Kildimo and Pallaskenry in county Limerick, is a trout fishery (087-1845736). Brown trout are also on the menu at Glasha Lake in Athea (068-42295)

Millbank House in Murroe (061-386115) has an angling centre on-site and is located close to sites for trout and salmon fishing, course and game fishing. Celtic Angling (069-68202) offers guided angling tours around county Limerick and Kerry. Don't forget to enquire about seasons and permits before casting your hook!

To enjoy nature in all its glory,



Cratloe Woods (061-337322) just over the border in Clare overlooks the estuary of the river Shannon and contains walking/hiking trails, a picnic area and viewing points. A climb up Woodcock Hill in the same parish offers spectacular views of Limerick and the surrounding countryside.

The 777 acre Curraghchase Forest Park in Kilcornan (061-337322) has picturesque scenery, a multitude of walkways and nature trails, a lake, a playground, a picnic area and the remains of grand, Curragh Chase House.

There are a number of looped way marked trails in the park to suit all visitors. They vary from the multi-access trails suitable for wheelchair users and family walkers to the longer Curragh and Glenisca trails suitable for those looking for more demanding walking and cycling. The large area of mixed

forest has stands of mostly beech, ash, oak and Norway spruce trees. For naturalists, try **Aughinish Alumina Nature Trail**, a self-guided nature trail near Askeaton (061-604000). The area offers observation areas, bird-watching, wild fowl and butterfly sanctuaries.

Visitors can enjoy the mighty River Shannon

The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland's spectacular coastal driving route, which stretches 2,500 kilometres all the way along the west coast from Donegal to West Cork. Limerick's close proximity to both Shannon Airport and the coastline means that you can access the route from here by travelling a reasonable

distance by car. The Wild Atlantic Way is illustrated by signs bearing a symbol with a blue background and a white representation of waves.

The pretty village of Foynes in west Limerick is featured on the Wild Atlantic Way. **The Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum** (069-65416) explores the fascinating role played in the establishment of passenger flights across the Atlantic, which is superbly captured in this museum.

Limerick has very good rail and road links for travelling to Clare, Kerry, Cork, Galway and even farther. The coast is never far away, particularly in Clare and Kerry, and opens up a world of stunning sea views, days at the beach and activities like swimming and surfing.

For more information see www.limerick.ie and www.wildatlanticway.com.

Drives Around Limerick



Visitors should always be in the driving seat when it comes to exploring with a number of fantastic routes around County Limerick and beyond. Why not load up the car with a picnic and take in the sights?

N69 Drive: This picturesque drive along the N69 offers a number of choices. Driving from the city, you can pass through towns like Clarina, Kildimo, Kilcornan and Askeaton before hugging the southern coastline of the Shannon estuary heading towards Foynes and Glin. Keep an eye out for the estuary dolphins and see the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum. You could continue along to Kerry or take the ferry crossing at Tarbert, which will take you across to Clare where there are any number of attractions en route back to Limerick.

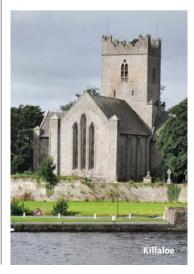
Limerick Drive: Following the N21, your first stop is Adare, dubbed the prettiest village in Ireland. With so much to see and do here, you might be forgiven for lingering a while. Follow the signs along the country roads to Curraghchase Forest Park and then the R518 and N11 will bring you to towns like Rathkeale and Newcastle West. Heading north on the N20 you will come to Croom, noted for its restored riverside granary and mill. A short trip through Hospital will bring you to the newly refurbished Lough Gur Heritage Centre to learn about the neolithic people who once lived by the lake.

Lough Derg Drive: Lough Derg is the largest lake on the Shannon and perhaps the most beautiful. Limerick is only a short distance from Killaloe and Ballina where you can drive along the lake banks. Follow the M7, signposted Dublin before taking the exit for Birdhill/Killaloe. If you want to head towards Portumna, you can take in Ogonnolloe, Scariff, Mountshannon and many other pretty villages.

Clare Glens: You could take a short trip to Murroe Village and the Clare Glens Walk. The road is the R506. This looped walk through lush forest alongside the clear rushing waterfalls of the river has some stunning natural scenery.

For more information on drives in the vicinity, see www.shannonregiontrails.ie.







New Retail Vigour

s the retail capital of the Mid-West, Limerick offers a memorable shopping experience with a fabulous selection of small family-run shops, stylish boutiques and modern department stores.

In our compact city centre there's just a short walk between designer stores, high street brands, market stalls and independent boutiques.

Retail centres include the Arthur's Quay shopping centre in the city centre, the Crescent Shopping Centre in Dooradoyle and the Parkway Shopping Centre on the Dublin Road.

At Limerick Milk Market you will discover the very best of fresh, natural produce from great farmhouse cheeses and chutneys, just-caught fish and artisan meats, organic fruit & vegetables, to delicious healthy breads and fresh pressed juices.

Experience the life and vibrancy of shopping in Limerick's City Centre. From high street bargains to top designer labels, Limerick's got the lot!

High Street

Shopping in Limerick has something for every budget with a wide range of high street stores.

O'Connell Street and Cruises Street are lively thoroughfares and home to all your favourite high street stores including Debenhams, Oasis, River Island, New Look, Penneys and much more.

Department Stores

Pay a visit to Brown Thomas or Debenhams on Limerick's O'Connell Street, where you can browse through a wide variety of goods including fashion, accessories, homeware and beauty products all under one roof.

Brown Thomas is one of the best-known department stores in Limerick, renowned for its designer brands and exclusive collections – it's the place to go for a little bit of luxury, whatever your budget.

Whatever your shopping needs, you'll find what you're looking for

Browse through top brands including Christian Louboutin, Diane Von Furstenberg and Marc Jacobs.

Don't forget Brown's Restaurant in Brown Thomas on O'Connell Street, the perfect place for when you need to recharge your batteries after an extended shopping session!

Popular department store Debenhams stocks affordable ranges from a number of designers such as Jasper Conran and Ben de Lisi.

Debenhams' store on O'Connell Street also has a shoe department, lingerie section and a cosmetics hall with all the top beauty brands and also offers extra services such as a free personal shopper.

Independent Boutiques

Limerick is the place to go for your wardrobe with an array of independent boutiques throughout the city.

Wander down pedestrianised Thomas Street and Bedford Row and be tempted by many treats ranging from jewellery to beauty to fashion and children shops. Or discover the many unique beautiful boutiques on Catherine Street.

Whatever your shopping needs, you'll find what you're looking for in Limerick city centre.

There are a number of smaller shops, shoe boutiques and antique stores around the Market Quarter, Cruises Street, Bedford Row and William Street teeming with unique and quirky offerings in Limerick.

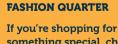
Further Afield

Outside of the city, Limerick offers many other wonderful places to get your dose of retail therapy. Newcastlewest has become a haven for fashionistas with a number of boutiques offering both luxury and affordable brands - including the famous Ela Maria, one of the longest running luxury boutiques in Ireland!

Furthermore, in the picturesque village of Adare you will also find a number of stores stocking clothing and accessories from Ireland's top labels, as well as a number of unique craft and design shops.







something special, check out the Fashion Quarter on Roches Street and Catherine Street where a wealth of wonderful boutiques and quirky accessories and shoe stores are located.





Crescent Shopping Centre Limerick

o61-228560 www.crescentshoppingcentre.ie

Limerick is home to premier retail destination, the Crescent Shopping Centre, which is the largest shopping complex outside of Dublin with over 90 retailers to create the perfect "shopping experience" for all walks of life, from young to old.

Noted for its relaxing atmosphere, bright malls, ease of access & ample free parking (2400 spaces), the Crescent Shopping Centre is 45 years in operation this year, and covers a massive 37,000 square metres. The Crescent is a mecca for fashionistas and families alike.

There are over 90 retail outlets, including high street brands, along with independent Irish & International stores, a 12-Screen Omniplex Cinema, numerous Eateries, a Drop-In Crèche and much more.

The centre's main anchor tenants are Tesco, Penneys, Gap Outlet, Shaws Department Store, Heatons, Argos and Boots.

Some of the hottest trends in ladies, mens and children's fashion are to be found here in stores such as Superdry, Next, Zara, H&M, River Island, Selected Femme/Homme, Quiz, Monsoon, Tommy Hilfiger, Jack & Jones, Pamela Scott, Mego, Diesel, Carraig Donn and Mothercare to name but a few.

From jewellery outlets, health & beauty outlets, shoe emporiums, hobby

shops to bookshops, giftware stores and don't forget the sports outlets, there is truly something for everyone. There is also a range of services on offer including hairdressers, a locksmith, banks, ATMs, a post office and a travel agent.

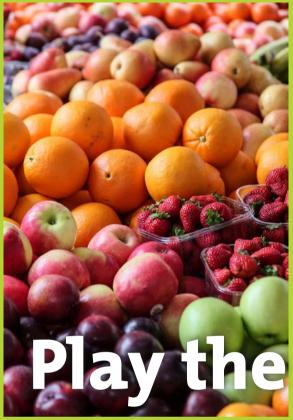
The qualified staff in the drop-in Crèche will look after your little ones while you take that well-deserved break for some retail therapy and coffee. The Crescent Playground also proves very popular with children and parents.

If you're in need of a boost after shopping, there is a selection of coffee outlets from Butler's Chocolate Café, BBs Coffee and Muffins, Costa Coffee, or delicious food offerings from O'Brien's Sandwich Bar, Quigleys, Asian street food eatery Ramen, Subway, KFC, Rockin Joes, Italian - Sorrento, Franklin's Restaurant and McDonalds.

It also hosts events year round from fashion, to beauty and family events along with a spectacular arrival of Santa Claus to Santa's Grotto during the festive season. There is also a Crescent gift card available, which can be used in all stores. News and special offers regularly appear on Crescent Facebook & Instagram pages (@crescentshoppingcentre).

With an emphasis on value, comfort and choice, the Crescent Shopping Centre is well worth a visit. Opening hours are Monday-Wednesday and Saturday 9.30am-6pm, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am-9pm and Sunday 12 noon-6pm.







The Milk Market has been a bustling hub of activity and meeting place for the people of Limerick since the mid 1800s.

The Milk Market
Cornmarket Row
www.milkmarketlimerick.ie

When the market started it mostly sold fresh food and produce and this proud tradition continues today but the market also has infinitely more to offer...

Running at full capacity, the market has up to 80 shops and stalls offering foodstuffs (whether fresh produce or delectable creations), crafts, beauty products, plants, jewellery, clothing and art. Thanks to a thoroughly modern makeover in the last few years, the main market area is now covered by a tensile roof to protect against inclement weather.

The most popular market day, Saturday, is now bookended by Friday and Sunday markets—each with their own unique flavour. Friday (10am-3pm) has more of a food court feel, supplemented with lunch deals and mixed with an eclectic selection of fashion, craft, books to bric-a-brac and live music. Sunday (11am-3pm) is a kind of Family Day Market with a broad mix of stalls. There are often street entertainers and buskers, along with dance, yoga and tai chi classes, creating a relaxed atmosphere.

A visit to the market on Saturday (8am-3pm) is an ideal way to kick start the weekend

A visit to the market on Saturday (8am-3pm) is an ideal way to kick start the weekend. Lots of casual traders turn out for the market too so all around Cornmarket Row is buzzing with people and activity. The busy din inside the 'big top' is music to the ears and you could easily spend hours browsing.

It's hard to pass such tempting fare. You might find yourself sampling a delicious crêpe from the Bon Appetit Creperie or the magnificent Grill at Country Choice (recent winner of Best Market Stall Ireland in the Irish Times) and revelling in handmade delights from Wilde Irish Chocolates or sipping a hot drink at the Harper's Cafe. Any gourmand would be spoiled for choice. Your visit could start with freshly squeezed juice, followed by a stop at Sarah's Pantry for tasty soups and meals, the finest homemade Macarons at Jody's, Turkish delights to dazzle the taste buds washed down with a squeezed pomegranate juice from Sefik or gluten-free goodies from OSS Foods. Adare Farm offers out of this world Limericks Famous Pig on the spit and there are many more authentic continental and asian cuisine options.









If you'd rather take something home, Country Choice is famous for its fresh home made food, including real hams, organic vegetables and wholemeal breads. Renowned local fishmongers, René Cusack, sells a range of white fish and shellfish along with their own tasty calamari.

There is a range of fruit and vegetable stalls to rival any supermarket including Rose Cottage Fruit Farm, Killowen Orchard, Quinn's Fruit & Vegetables, Ken Miller's and several more that are dedicated to fresh produce. If baked goods are what you are after Thorobread Co. and the Gourmet Tart Company are among the best in the country. For meat and fish you need to pop over to West Cork Fish, Quarmount Butcher and Lisduff Traditional Fine Food stalls.

The Milk Market is a genuine haven for foodies, abounding with high quality specialty goods such as sauces, relishes, chutneys and more including The Real Olive Company, Green Apron and Píog Pies. There are also several cheese outlets including The Flying Cheese Brigade, Old Irish Creamery and

Greenacres Cheese & Coffee Shop—a market institution for over a decade. Recent additions inlude the Itea cafe with a broad range of filling sandwiches, designer cakes made to order and a range of teas.

The Milk Market is a genuine haven for foodies, abounding with high quality specialty goods

While some are laden down by groceries, others prefer to browse clothing, crafts, accessories and art. To stand out in the crowd, The Edge deals in retro, vintage and gothic clothes. If you need some sparkle in your life, Walk in Closet shop has the latest ladies fashion, Virgo Jewellery & Accessories has a large variety or for the more 'crafty' customer, the selection of gifts and artisan products from local producers, will have

something unusual. For an investment in some art and uniquely Irish crafted gems visit the beautiful Milk Market Gift Store.

Plant and shrub enthusiasts are spoilt for choice with many experts among the line up of traders. Rich pickings and sound advice can be had from Kiely's and Cormac McCarthy to name a few.

Some shops in the market complex open outside of market days. Further information on all the traders in the market is available on the website.

The market, in conjunction with Dolan's Warehouse, now runs evening music concerts under the big top and details of upcoming gigs are on the website.

The Milk Market is truly an energetic, multi-purpose venue and has become Ireland's leading market.

Find it on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ LimerickMilkMarket.

Connolly Man

12-14 Patrick Street/Crescent Shopping Centre 061-410324 www.connollyman.com

The Connolly group have justly earned their reputation as one of Ireland's top menswear retailers and the name is synonymous with quality menswear for over 45 years.

Providing an unrivalled selection of leading labels, expert service, a personable atmosphere and a genuine commitment to customer satisfaction.

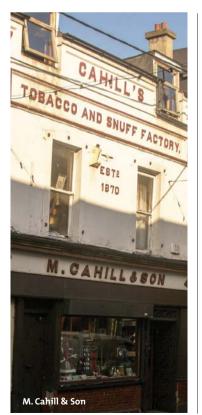
From classic business suiting, weekend casuals, leading denim labels, contemporary suiting collections and formalwear, Connolly stores have got it all

Stores in the group are located in Patrick Street, the Crescent Shopping Centre Limerick and O'Connell Street, Clonmel. Connolly outlet stores are located in Crescent Shopping Centre and Bedford Row Limerick (massive discounts on oddments and end of season stock). Stitch (Superdry) is also located on Patrick Street.



So if you're looking for something a bit special that you can't find easily elsewhere, why not come visit and discover whats in store for you...

For more information, email info@connollyman.com.



M. Cahill & Son 47 Wickham Street 061-311821

www.mcahillandson1870.com

Housed in an old tobacco and snuff factory, Cahill's Shop has been serving the people of Limerick since 1870 and has maintained its unique atmosphere through the years.

It is the only tobacco and cigar shop outside Dublin. Through the decades it has had many changes and while it still has many cigar, tobacco and snuff customers, it stocks a wide range of gentlemen's gifts.

It is packed with one-of-a-kind items like walking sticks, hip flasks, lovely tweed caps, silk handkerchiefs, cufflinks, shaving gear and grooming sets, leather wallets and penknives. The store prides itself on carrying a large range of Irishmade giftware for men, together with international brands.

Cahill's also has a great range of teas and tisanes (herbal teas), which are blended and weighed in the shop.

There are many reasons to visit Limerick but no visit is complete without calling to Cahill's. Visiting the oldest shop in the city is like stepping back in time

M. Cahill & Son opens from Monday to Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm.

The store prides itself on carrying a large range of Irish-made giftware for men, together with international brands





Copper and Spice

Above Mill Bar, Annacotty, Co. Limerick 061-338791 www.copperandspice.com Copper and Spice really lives up its name with copper prevalent in the tableware and of course, the spice is all in the food.

Located a few minute's drive from the University of Limerick in the quaint village of Annacotty, this Indian restaurant has a great reputation among local people for its authentic cuisine.

Great reputation among local people for its authentic cuisine

The vibrant colours, dark wood and variety of textures in the décor complement the dining experience.

It offers an array of different set menus priced at \in 18 and \in 21, a monthly special menu and an à la carte.

Dishes include (but are not limited to) paneer rolls, fish pakora, makhani chicken, monkfish curry, methi malai maas and channa masala. There are 'Asian and Pacific' sections in the menu too so you can mix and match between Indian, Thai and Japanese.

The restaurant has been recommended by the McKenna's Guide and food critic, Georgina Campbell. Copper and Spice also has a sizeable takeaway menu and delivery service available.

Texas Steakout

116 O'Connell Street 061-414440 / 061-410503 www.texassteakout.com

In 1988, the Wild West came to Limerick in the form of the Texas Steakout but don't be fooled by the novel theme, the quality of the food has made it one of the city's most popular restaurants.

The décor is modern and stylish, with lots of solid wood, exposed brick, fascinating photographs and even lifesized cowboys and Indians.

The quality of the food has made it one of the city's most popular restaurants

The Steakout serves lunch Monday to Saturday 12-4pm, with light options as well as hearty meals. The three course Sunday lunch guarantees you a good meal.



Dinner is available seven days a week from 4-10.30pm (10pm on Sundays). Appetisers include spare ribs, loaded potato skins and mussels. The extensive list of mains takes in chicken, meat, fish and vegetarian meals from fajitas to braised lamb shank, fish and chips to colcannon chicken with bacon, enchiladas to Texas fried shrimp. Of

course, juicy steaks and steak burgers are a speciality.

There are great value set menus with numerous dishes to choose from as well as the à la carte menu.

Families are welcome and booking is advisable. Try not to have a *Gunfight at the OK Corral* over the buffalo bill!

DID YOU KNOW?

Poetry

A 'limerick' is a short, humorous poem with a strict rhyming scheme (AABBA). It is not conclusively known if the name of the form refers to Limerick City or County specifically but many say that the name is a reference to the renowned 'Maigue Poets'. Many of these poets wrote limericks and one such verse by publican poet, Sean O'Tuama, in the 18th century read: "I sell the best Brandy and Sherry/To make all my customers merry/But at times their finances/Run short as it chances/And then I feel very sad, very."

Limerick in Numbers

91,456

Population of Limerick City and environs

3

Limerick is the third most populous city in Ireland

202

Distance in kilometres from Limerick to Dublin

1197

Year Limerick got its Charter from King John 1

2,000

Approximate number of art works in Limerick's Hunt Museum

1

Number of bridges across the Shannon in Limerick City

2

Limerick has the second largest Polish community in Ireland

675

Length in metres of the Shannon Tunnel

14,000

Student population of UL during the academic year

250,000

Estimated number of people who gathered in Limerick City centre to see The Giant's Journey on September 5-7, 2014

Tuscany Bistro at The Granary

Michael Street 061-468000 www.tuscany.ie

Tuscany Bistro at The Granary is the place to be in Limerick if you are a lover of Mediterranean and Italian cuisine. This beautiful restaurant, set in the historical setting of the Granary building, boosts an amazing 90 seats as well as a stunning heated outdoor seating area.

Tuscany offers delicious meals ranging from authentic Italian dishes to wholesome Mediterranean meals, using only the finest and freshest local ingredients.

With an ethos revolving around 'simple perfection', guests will be wowed by the extensive range of antipasti, salads, pastas and pizzas

Using only the finest and freshest local ingredients

as well as poultry, meat and seafood options. There is also a diverse range of delicious gluten free dishes including pasta and pizza.

Stunningheated outdoor seating area

If it's nightlife you're after, the restaurants enthusiastic bar staff can whip up almost any cocktail that tickles your fancy, with complimentary music in the courtyard on select evenings.

That's not all, as there's a child friendly menu, Food To Go Menu and an excellent Great Value Menu, making Tuscany Bistro an all-round delight with friendly experts to serve you the absolute best.

It's the perfect venue for weddings and private events. With two beautiful location's already in Castletroy and Ballina, Co. Tipperary, we can't get enough of this Italian gem!

Parking and free Wi-Fi available.





Limerick in Numbers

1983

Year Limerick Civic Trust was formally inaugurated

2004

Year the annual Riverfest began

350

Length in metres of The Living Bridge in UL, Ireland's longest pedestrian bridge

061

Telephone dialling code for Limerick

24

Distance in kilometres from Limerick to Shannon Airport

2001

Year Limerick rower, Sam Lynch, won his first World Championship gold medal in the Men's Lightweight Single Skulls (he took gold again in 2002)

1889

Year the first edition of *The Limerick Leader* hit the streets on Friday 9 August

2

Number of All Ireland Senior Hurling titles won by Limerick to date

1852

Year the School of Ornamental Art (now Limerick School of Art & Design, LIT) was established

95

Sum in millions raised for charity by the JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am golf event since 1990

DID YOU KNOW?

Hollywood Starlet

Born in Limerick in 1928, Constance Smith was a film actress, and contract player of 20th Century Fox. She won a beauty contest in Dublin at 16 and her mother sent the photo to a film studio. She subsequently did a screen test and moved to London to act. In 1950, she was noticed playing an Irish maid in the film. The Mudlark and offered a contract by the Hollywood studio. She starred in numerous features throughout the 1950s including Man in the Attic and Treasure of the Golden Condor. She was a presenter at the Academy Awards ceremony in 1952. Her film career faltered in the late fifties. She had a turbulent romantic and personal life in the following years. Constance Smith passed away in 2003 in London.



The Copper Room 100 O'Connell Street 061-211000 www.thecopperroom.ie

In the elegant setting of Georgian Limerick, The Copper Room offers a little something different—specialising in atmosphere, music and comfort.

The two large open fireplaces, generous smoking areas and candlelight features make for an incredibly European feel.



Their philosophy is simple: To share their passion for cheese, wine and port with their customers. The Copper Room, located at 100 O'Connell Street, prides itself on having the most comprehensive wine, port and champagne selection around

With food being served to 1 am at weekends there is an extensive menu including various types of cheeses, paté, meats and breads. All are served on rustic slates while being accompanied by various oils and side dishes, each is tailored for you and your own choice.

Large open fireplaces, generous smoking areas and candlelight features making for an incredibly European feel

The Copper Room is open seven evenings a week from 5pm 'til late, and offers later closing times of 2am on Fridays and Saturdays as long as you are in by 12.30am. Various activities take part at the weekends including DJs with live music and popular jazz on Sunday evenings.



The Copper Room does not take reservations and operates on a walk-in policy and prides itself on having a very laid-back bar feel for the customer.

It is possible to book for corporate gatherings and parties with two separate areas available and there are also gift vouchers available for that someone special.

Will Leahy, 2FM DJ and television personality had this to say about The Copper Room: "I just love this place, a little taste of the continent—the atmosphere, the fires, the wine, the food—it really has it all!"

For more information, see www. copperroom.ie, email info@copperroom.ie, Facebook, TheCopperRoomLimerick and Twitter, @Copper Room.



Hong Kong

44 William Street
061–411505 / 085-1531761
www.facebook.com/HKCRLimerick

The Hong Kong was the very first Chinese restaurant in the Treaty City and has been serving superb Cantonese cuisine to the people of Limerick for over 50 years.

The Choi family first founded the restaurant and then sold it to their friends, the Lees, who had come to Ireland from Hong Kong. They renamed it after their homeland and the décor

reflects that heritage, as does the tradition of great service.

Serving superb
Cantonese
cuisine to
the people of
Limerick for
over 50 years

Starters include meat sung, crispy aromatic duck and skewer chicken in satay sauce as well as soups. Mains cover poultry, meat, seafood and vegetables in various delectable combinations. Their curry is famous in the city, a recipe descended from the pioneers who first came to the UK and Ireland.

Whether your preference is crispy chilli chicken, beef Szechuan, king prawn Kung Po, House Special duckling, char siu roast pork, or the Chef's Special hot-hot chicken, there is something for every palate. The menu includes European dishes like Chicken Maryland and omelettes, among others.

To go with the flavours on offer, choose your tipple with classics from the Wine Menu such as the fragrant frizzant Mateus Rosé or French Chablis wine from J. Moreau & fils. Beers include the popular lagers Tsingtao, Tiger, Budwieser, Heineken and Bulmers cider.

The Hong Kong can boast of having one of the best value meal deals in the city, with massive choice offering a starter and main course starting at €11 from 4.30-7.30pm daily.

Popular with couples, families or even old friends' get-togethers for its cosy setting, book a table over the phone to avoid disappointment.

The Hong Kong also offers takeaway and delivery services. It opens seven days a week from 4.30-10.30pm.

The Wine Buff 17 Mallow Street

o61-313394 www.thewinebuff.com

The Wine Buff, located in a beautifully restored Georgian building, can tell you everything you ever wanted to know about wine but were afraid to ask, along with selling a fantastic selection of wines from all over the world.

Owner, Mike O'Mara, would be delighted to welcome you to his shop, whether you are looking for a single bottle of wine or wines for a special occasion of any size or type. The wines are carefully chosen and prices start from €11.99 so great quality does not have to cost the earth.

There is always a friendly staff member on hand to ask for advice if you wish and you might get to taste a wine when you call in. Stock includes wine from all over the world, champagne, wine gifts/ accessories, Wilde Irish hand-made chocolates, olive oil and chutneys.

The Wine Buff is now the country's biggest independent specialised wine retailer and has expanded to include 14 stores nationwide along with one in Madrid and St. Emillion, Bordeaux.

The country's biggest independent specialised wine retailer





Lana

28 O'Connell Street, Dublin Road, Castletroy & Courtfields SC, Raheen 061279788 / 061-508061 / 061-303254 www.lanathai.ie

Bringing you the tastes, colours, and aroma of Asian street food, Lana brings authentic Asian cuisine from the streets of Thailand, Indonesia, China and Malaysia to your doorstep. Food from Lana is prepared with passion by a team of chefs that come from across Asia bringing their unique food heritage with them. The delicious savoury dishes served here have proven popular with many locals who come back again and again for a tasty 'Lana'.

The modern and vibrant interior design of Lana's various outlets reflect the dishes and flavours on offer. With such reasonable prices you will have to come back a few times to discover your favourite Lana dish, be it noodles, a curry, duck salad, pad thai, khao pad, thai sweet sour chicken or nasi goreng.

Authentic Asian cuisine from the streets of Thailand, Indonesia, China and Malaysia

Lana is a casual dining experience offering both eat-in and take-away services with free ice-cream after every meal. The chefs want you to enjoy your meal so let them know if you would like

your dish mild, medium, hot or very hot; your food is cooked to your taste. Orders can also be taken online at lanathai.ie or download the app Lana Asian street food to recieve 10% off

Lana also has other restaurants in Salthill, Galway, Ennis, Co. Clare and Tralee, in Co. Kerry with more coming next year, so keep your eyes open for a Lana coming your way soon.

Hamptons Bar & Grill Henry Street

o61- 609325 www.hamptonsgrill.ie

Hamptons Bar & Grill is a New York style restaurant, located next door to

The Savoy Hotel. At Hamptons they are proud to have custom designed their own wood fired Robata ovens and grills, unique to Limerick & Ireland. Built to ensure the maximum in flavour and succulence in all steaks, chicken and seafood. They use the best beech wood charcoal in all their cooking which imparts its unique signature in a slow release formula. All meats are marinated overnight in their secret recipe rubs and dressings before being grilled or roasted for your delectation.

The popularity of Hamptons restaurant is in the popularity of its dishes

The popularity of Hamptons restaurant is in the popularity of its dishes; prawn cocktail, bang bang chicken, ravioli pasta or succulent fillet steak cooked on the robata grill.

At Hamptons they endeavour to source all their produce locally and organically where possible. Most of their produce comes from County Limerick, County Clare, County Tipperary & County Galway.

The glamourous decor and the attentive service makes it an ideal destination for a family occasion, friends gathering or just that special date.





Harry's on the River Café·Bar·Restaurant Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry's Mall 061-463600 www.absolutehotel.com

In the heart of Limerick's historical Medieval Quarter, you will find the award-winning Harry's restaurant which is as vibrant and current as Limerick city itself. Named after the one of the city's first entrepreneurs, Sir Harry Hartstonge, who once lived at the end of the Mall adjacent to the historical Baal's Bridge.

Harry's restaurant is located on the first floor of the Absolute Hotel, it is surrounded by Limerick's best known tourist attractions like the Hunt Museum, King John's Castle, St Mary's Cathedral and Limerick's lively Milk Market.

It is surrounded by Limerick's best known tourist attractions

In Harry's, you will find local people enjoying the best of local Irish produce. There is also a large selection of craft beers, including the locally brewed Harris Pale Ale.

The team is personable and professional, the menu innovative with food that 'hits the spot' and the surroundings bright and stylish. Diners can sit back and watch the water flow by from the floor to ceiling windows overlooking the Abbey River.

Fresh, made-to-order lunches are served Monday to Friday 12.30pm – 5pm, Saturday 1pm – 5pm or bring the whole family for Sunday lunch between

1-3pm. Dinner is served Monday to Sunday 5-9.30pm. Pop in any time for freshy baked homemade scones served with jam and cream.

As night draws in, the bartenders can shake up perfectly blended cocktails with the city skyline in the background.

The restaurant has a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence and the Absolute Hotel is rated as the number one hotel in Limerick on TripAdvisor. It has also been recommended by food critics, Lucinda O'Sullivan and Georgina Campbell but don't take their word for it, visit for yourself.

Off the Bone

Raheen Roundabout, Raheen 061-487 410 offthebonegastropub.com

Off The Bone in Raheen - Hot Press Magazine's *Best Limerick Gastropub* – is an essential stop-off for those that want to experience prime Irish steaks and Gastro dishes served in hip, stylish surroundings.

Offering an extensive à la carte menu, along with a very appealing early bird menu which showcases a number of their signature dishes. Off The Bone is one of a select number of eateries in the region to be certified by the Irish Angus Producers' Society for their prime Black Angus beef. The establishment is also one of very few in the country to feature the unique Josper Oven – which cooks over charcoal at incredibly high temperatures to perfectly seal in the flavour of the Prime Angus Beef.

An essential stop-off for those that want to experience prime Irish steaks

To complement their considerable menus, Off The Bone features a well-judged drinks menu featuring their own range of Irish brewed Craft Beers. Wine lovers will also enjoy a selection of exclusive Pinot Grigio, Merlot and Frizzante.

Kick back to the sounds of a selection of great local music acts and guest performances every weekend 'til late.

Located adjacent to the Great National South Court Hotel, there's ample, free parking and public transport nearby.

For more information, visit facebook. com/offthebonegastropub or call 061 487 410.



Limerick has truly embraced café culture with numerous casual enteries to sit and watch the world go by casual eateries to sit and watch the world go by.



Jack Monday's **Coffee House** Thomond Bridge House, Thomondgate V94D1WP. 061 279 284

Jack Monday's is nestled beside the Treaty Stone in one of the most historical quarters of Limerick city and named after a soldier from the civil war era. The café boasts of its own historical story. but don't take our word for it call in and check out the stunning views of the

mighty River Shannon and King John's Castle - it's not one to be missed.

The menu caters for a variety of tastes from vegetarian dishes to an all day Irish breakfast; there is the mouth watering mango beef bomb and fabulous falafel wraps which are just some of the other choices. Renowned for their famous Belgian hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream accompanied by the Belgian waffles smothered in Maple syrup!

Jack Monday's Coffee House is open 7 days a week. See Facebook & TripAdvisor for further information.

L Stunning views of the mighty **River Shannon** and King John's Castle - it's not one to be missed

Luigi's Traditional Fish & Chips Takeaway/ Restaurant

44 Parnell Street 061-410269

Located directly across from Colbert train station and serving the people of Limerick for 30 years, Luigi's is

everything you'd want in a Fish & Chip restaurant/takeaway.

Serving the people of Limerick for 30 years

Luigi Orlandi and his staff have perfected their recipes over many years to the point where Limerick people now simply only have to say "going for a Luigi's" to be instantly understood.

Restaurant seating area open Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 6pm.

Takeaway open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 12.30am, and Sundays from 4-11.30pm.



Pubs

W.J. South's

4 Quinlan Street (O'Connell Avenue) 061-314669

South's Pub has the unique honour of being the place where Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Frank McCourt, had his very first pint.

It has several mentions in McCourt's memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, and he visited the pub on trips back to Limerick.

South's has been trading since 1909 and maintains the classic interior and character that is its signature to this day. The imposing bar counter is something to see in itself and its history is outlined in the framed newspaper cuttings and sketches hanging on the walls.

It has been modernised and extended over the years with one of the additions being a carvery counter. South's serves breakfast in the mornings and is often busy for lunch as well as light refreshments throughout the day. Limerick has a variety of both quaint old style public houses as well as stylish, modern pubs to choose from.



Trading since
1909 and
maintains the
classic interior
and character

It has televisions dotted around but plenty of quiet corners to relax in the welcoming atmosphere. Among the clientele are avid sports fans, many with a keen interest in rugby, racing and golf. South's has its own golf society. There is a smoking area with tables and chairs at the front and side entrance.



The Horse & Hound Bar

1 Mulgrave Street 061-419194

The Horse & Hound Bar has been continuously trading at the corner of Mulgrave Street and Cathedral Place for over 150 years.

Originally established under a 999 year lease to cater for thirsty farmers who enjoyed an early tipple before selling their produce at the market fair, this bar continues to provide food and

drink to those who start their day in the early morning.

In its long history it has been the birthplace of an American Senator, a location for the picking of the Limerick hurling team, and during the War of Independence, guns, ammunition and infamously, the gunpowder used to blow up the Annacotty bridge, was stolen from the nearby barracks and passed to the rebels inside the doors of this well-known Limerick bar.

The Horse & Hound opens from 7.30am Monday to Saturday and from 9am on Sunday with its hallmark full

Irish breakfast as the main attraction. From 12-9pm, it serves a traditional, wholesome and generously portioned menu which changes daily with speedy, table service assured. At any time of the day, this is one of the best places in the city to get a good pint of Guinness, a true sign of a traditional Irish pub.

Popular with locals and tourists alike, this establishment sees customers returning again and again for its relaxed atmosphere, good food, great drink and friendly banter. With a reputation for impromptu sing songs and traditional music, this Limerick pub is a favourite.

Fennessys Pub

1 New Street 061-229038

Fennessys is one of Limerick's oldest pubs and is full of character and steeped in history.

Established in 1904 by Matthew Fennessy, the pub is now being run by the fourth generation of the Fennessy family.

Located adjacent to Mary Immaculate College on the South Circular Road, this pub has been a favourite for the staff and students of the college for many years as well as for locals. The college's new addition, the Lime Tree Theatre, is fast becoming the city's leading stage venue and this makes Fennessys a prime location for a pre or post performance tipple.

Fennessys is a great spot to watch a match, have a function, enjoy a creamy pint or relax with a coffee



Fennessys is a great spot to watch a match, have a function, enjoy a creamy pint or relax with a coffee.

The neat old world frontage of the pub is an indication of what you will find inside. There are two old style Irish pub booths - one even dubbed 'The Senate' - dark wood tables with a variety of seating options and décor including a model plane suspended from the ceiling bring classic charm to the 21st century. The sizeable lounge area often hosts parties and table quizzes.

You can also grab lunch here with the sandwich bar, open Monday to Friday from 12 noon-2.30pm offering fresh sandwiches, toasties, soup and hot drinks. The off-licence attached to the premises sells a range of beers, wines and spirits with weekly special offers.

A fun and friendly pub, Fennessys has three sports associations including a golf society, a pitch and putt club and a deep sea angling club.

Twitter & Facebook: @fennessyspub



Collins' Bar Dooradoyle Road 061-309191 www.collinsbardooradoyle.ie

With a laid back atmosphere and attractive furnishings, Collins bar & restaurant offers locals and visitors the whole package. Highly thought of for its excellent food, fine range of drinks and

timeless décor, it is located conveniently off the motorway at Dooradoyle—an obvious choice for a pitstop when passing through or exploring the Wild Atlantic Way.

From Saturday brunch to carvery lunch, a stylish sandwich and salad menu to a sizeable evening à la carte, food is to the fore at Collins'. As well as offering exceptional cuisine, it's a much-loved, cosy local bar. Whether you are tucking

into the grilled fillet of sea bream, or the 12 hour braised shank of lamb, or you just fancy a comforting taco bowl, you're sure to leave Collins bar with a big satisfied smile on your face. Don't forget to indulge in a dessert, all homemade and are beyond delicious. The bar is stocked with an extensive range of gins, whiskeys, superb wines and of course everyone's favourites in beer and cider. The new gin menu offers an array of trendy gin cocktails that will thrill the followers of gin fashion. Food is served midday-9pm, seven days a week (reservations accepted). There are lots of screens for all major sporting events as well as free Wi-Fi. There are party packages available to suit all budgets. The comfortable outside area, with heaters and canopies, makes for great summer BBQs. Owners, James Collins and his wife Eileen, have a passion for exceptional customer service and that has made Collins' bar what it is today, since opening over 12 years ago. You can find the bar at M20 Junction 2.

Flannery's Bar 19 Shannon Street 061-415027

Old world charm meets new world hospitality.

Step into one of Limerick's best kept secrets - at Flannery's Bar on Shannon Street, with its traditional pub facade of dark wood and gold lettering.

Proprietor Paul Flannery and his staff treat every customer as if they were regulars, inviting them to have a pint in the comfortable and relaxed atmosphere of this cosy pub.

Flannery's is located directly opposite the entrance of the George Boutique Hotel and just off O'Connell Street. It would be easy to overlook this small bar, but the big welcoming smiles from behind the counter make it a must visit and not to be missed.

This is a superb bar to bask in all things in Limerick and Munster. Stories, yarns and general banter are a common theme here on a daily basis. You would be educated on the most unusual topics but also entertained by the joviality of the many welcoming conversations you may come across.

With strong connections to Ahane GAA through Paul's wife Eilise - the granddaughter of one of Limerick and Ahane finest hurlers, the great Mick Mackey - it is also a good spot to watch all the GAA action as well as rugby, horse racing or the many big fight boxing matches which are shown weekly.

On Sundays, a local trad band entertain, with foot stomping traditional music from 6pm to late. While Thursdays and Fridays offer a modern twist to music with some of the finest musicians Limerick has produced over the past 50 decades.

If you are looking for a quality quick lunch on the go, why not drop in and try out the new light lunch menu. A range of freshly made soups with freshly baked sourdough bread which is baked fresh every morning will definitely not disappoint. Choose from one of the following new additions to dampen any hunger pains; A delicious variety of pies, baked fresh each day, the understated baked potato which is filled with your choice of toppings or Nordic flat bread vegetarian option is full of flavour and not to be missed.



Myles Breen's 18 Shannon Street

18 Shannon Street 061-414327 www.facebook.com/MylesBreens

Myles Breen's Select Bar has stood at 18 Shannon Street in Limerick City since 1802. Since the early 19th century its façade has witnessed disparate archetypes of traffic, not just humans but from horse-drawn wagons to the contemporary motor car.

Nonetheless, one thing which has survived to remain the same is its establishment as a public house and as an institution of Munster Rugby. This pub is situated on a street which links Limerick's City centre to the majestic River Shannon.

Its neighbouring sites include the place where the world famous Shakespearean actress Ada Rehan was born, or two doors down from where Adam Clayton called "the exact point of becoming U2" occurred on March 18th 1978 when the band, performing as U2 for the first time, won the Limerick Civic Week Pop group '78 competition.



While working as a whole, Myles Breen's interior lends itself to be split into three sections: a top section, middle and bottom. Its snug and amiable atmosphere is created by a combination of contrasting factors: good staff, patterned upholstery, polished mahogany and of course, the red relief wallpaper

littered with a framed gallery of precursory sporting events.

When sport is not on the television, the only friendly music that can be heard is the art of conversation, sounding from mouths and lingering on the ears of each of its customers.

The Glen Tavern

1-2 Lower Glentworth Street 061-411380 www.qlentavern.ie

The Glen Tavern is Limerick's local in the heart of the city. Located in the Georgian Quarter, this wonderful dated building circa 1800 still retains its old world charm.

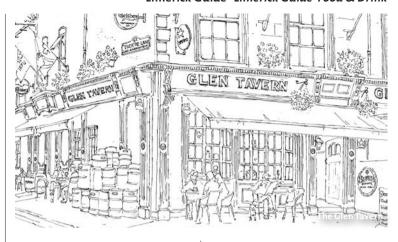
Renowned for its food and beverage trade, it's a family run business, catering for local and tourist alike.

The friendly staff, led by owner Ger Callanan, continue to maintain their high standards achieved with the Fáilte Ireland award and TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013/14/15 and 2016

Whiskey and Craft Beer Tasting are new options from the extensive selection of events for 2017.

Delicious Irish food menu, a great pint of 'the black stuff' and live music and sport are just some of the reasons to call in to The Glen

Food is served from 9.30am until 10pm all freshly prepared on the premises by chef, Josie.



Breakfast options include the iconic full Irish, a mini breakfast, and lots

Light lunch options include seafood chowder, homemade soups, sandwiches and 'a light bite of the day'.

For a heartier meal in the daytime, there is a large choice such as shepherd's pie, ploughman's lunch as well as daily specials e.g. curry, Irish stew and a vegetarian dish of the day. Evening meals include gourmet bangers & mash, beef & Guinness pie, and White Gypsy

Beer battered cod to name but a few.

Groups bookings for meals can be assured of a professional service in a cosy atmosphere. All special dietary needs are well catered for with the choice of menu that is available.

The location, just off O'Connell Street, makes it an ideal meeting place. There is live music nightly Thursday to Sunday; you are guaranteed a good night's entertainment.

All major credit cards are accepted.



Bobby Byrne's 3 O'Connell Avenue

o61-316949 www.bobbybyrnes.ie

Bobby Byrnes, situated on the corner of O'Connell Avenue and Wolfe Tone Street, is an award winning gastropub serving delicious food seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This gastro-pub holds several awards and accolades for its food including 'Munster Carvery of The Year' as well as recommendations from food writers, critics and bloggers, Lucinda O'Sullivan and Georgina Campbell, to name but two.

Bobby Byrnes Gastropub is owned and operated by Robert and Fiona, the second generation of the Byrne family to run the bar, however 'Bobby's', as it's known locally, has more recently expanded its business to a busy bustling gastropub with Corner Store and are also outside catering specialists.

Bobby Byrnes is also known to serve a great pint of Guinness along with a large selection of craft beers, wines, specialty gins and spirits from around the world

Fiona, Robert and the team at Bobby's pride themselves on the level of customer service they provide and are regarded locally as "Limerick's friendliest foodie corner" and this can be evidently seen on their Tripadvisor page which contains regular glowing comments/recommendations and reviews of the staff and dishes like its 'best ever fish & chips', its 'ultimate beef burger' and its very own 'house curry'.

On stepping into this cosy pub with a real log fire, you will know a warm welcome awaits you. Every Thursday night, there is a lovely trad music session enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

When rugby season recommences, Bobby's is the only place in town to soak up the match atmosphere and enjoy a few pints. Bobby's is an official Match Venue Bar for the Munster Rugby Supporters Club. The pub walls are fixed with fascinating rugby memorabilia and the ceilings adorned with club and international flags and jerseys.

So if you're a new visitor to Bobby's, enjoy the best food in town accompanied by either a creamy pint, a craft beer or specialty spirit and see for yourself why Bobby Byrnes is an award winning gastropub and why it is "Limerick's friendliest foodie corner" – it won't disappoint!

Dolan's Pub & Restaurant

Dock Road 061-314483 www.dolans.ie

Dolans is one of Irelands iconic music venues. Located on the Dock Road Dolans has 4 live music venues, Traditional Irish music every night and serves delicious food.

Winner Irish Pubs Global Best Entertainment Experience (World) Winner 2017, Winner Irish Pubs Global Best Entertainment Experience (Ireland) Winner 2017, Irish Pub Best Venue SW 2017, Winner Pure M Best Venue Award 2017, Metal Radio Ireland Best festival, Hotpress Readers award 2015 Best Venue IMRO Live Music Venue of the Year Award 2014, Hotpress Venue of the Year 2013 Special Commendation, IMRO 2013 Munster Winner

♦ One of Irelands most iconic venues



Dolan's is also home to the famous Dolan's Warehouse, which hosts the top international, national and local acts.

The décor has great character from the solid to the open fire, the corner space reserved for Irish musicians and Irish music memorabilia on the walls. With a warm atmosphere, amiable service and an outstanding pint, you can understand its popularity.

Dolan's opens for breakfast on weekends and Bank Holidays. Lunch is

served from 12pm, Monday-Friday and dinner served from 5-10pm. There is a special student menu too.

The menu specializes in fresh Irish food fish Irish beef with a strong leaning toward local produce. We are especially proud of our local Irish beef, fresh fish and fabulous steaks

There are several large screens for watching sport (the sport is especially lively for Munster games) and two heated smoking areas.



Mickey Martin's Augustinian Lane

Mickey Martin's is a fantastic little family-run pub right in the centre of Limerick's pedestrianised zone.

But don't be misled by the slow, easygoing pace of the lunchtime shift which is overseen by the resident chef, Eggz, who you will also see on the odd night spinning the discs as he is also one of Mickey's resident DJs.

Mickey's lunchtime menu is an unassuming thing; if you enjoy healthy homemade food, then this is for you. There are plenty of menu favourites but try the great hearty beetroot and chickpea vegetarian wrap or the pulled pork bap with a tasty homemade soup of the day.

The music is really the star of the show in Mickey's. All the staff members have a well-educated ear and are led by their manager Seamus, who is also a DJ. You are likely to hear an eclectic mix of funk, soul, jazz, hip hop, disco and house. Along with the resident DJs, Mickey's also hosts DJs from all around Ireland and abroad playing outside the pub in the lane—which transforms the whole area into a street festival.

Mickey Martin's is a fantastic little familyrun pub

One of the very best events in Mickey's calendar every year is the Mickey Martin's Fancy Dress Party at Halloween. If you only go out once a year, this night is not to be missed!

Last but not least the resident cats, Kitten and Albert Einstein, are always available for a rub by the fire on a cold winter's night.



DID YOU KNOW?

Limerick Journalists

Several leading Irish journalists hail from Limerick. Vincent Browne was born here in 1944. He is currently a columnist with The Irish Times and presented current affairs discussion show Tonight with Vincent Browne for many years on TV3. Another legendary local journalist was Arthur Quinlan (1921-2012). Though not born here, he was based at Shannon Airport - reporting for The Irish Times - for a significant period during his 50 year career. He is well known for his interviews with politicians, royalty and film stars. He was the first Irishman to travel in a jet across the Atlantic to New York in 1958.

Literary Legacy

Limerick novelist and playwright, Kate O'Brien (1897-1974) is known for acclaimed works such as Without My Cloak (Winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize), The Ante-Room, Mary Lavelle, The Land of Spices and That Lady. O'Brien is considered a pioneer in Irish fiction. She had very strong links with Spain, having worked there for a time and she also wrote a travelogue entitled Farewell Spain and a biography of Saint Teresa of Avila. She has a street named after her in the village of Gotarrendura in the Avila region. Her childhood home remains on Mulgrave Street in the city and a collection of her papers was bequeathed to the University of Limerick in 2002. The Limerick Literary Festival (formerly the Kate O'Brien Weekend) is held in her honour annually in Limerick.



101 101 O'Connell Street Limerick 061-597 164

One of the newest venues in Limerick for 2018, 101 O'Connell Street is fast becoming one of the city's most popular hotspots. Located on the main street of Limerick 101 is a cocktail bar with an edge, offering three floors of fun in the heart of the city.

Truly a venue that exudes sophistication and fun in equal measure

On the ground level patrons are greeted by an authentic and comfortable "Irish bar", decorated with paintings by the acclaimed Irish artist Solus to give visitors a taste of what to expect when they enter the next level of 101 – their signature outdoor bar! With ample heating, colourful lighting and plants, the bar seems to offer an escape into a stylish secret garden, where you can sip your drink or dance to the beat of laid back house music.

The venue also features live music on Wednesdays and Sundays. Lastly, for those who prefer a quieter setting, at the very top of 101 is an open air space where patrons can soak up the ambience from above.

Featuring a wide selection of top shelf whiskeys and gins, as well as wine and craft beer, 101's premier attraction is its varied selection of high-calibre cocktails, prepared with expertise by its passionate mixologists. With a drinks menu that changes from time to time to offer connoisseurs a fresh selection of cocktails, 101 is truly a venue that exudes sophistication and fun in equal measure. For more information visit their Facebook page @101oconnellstreet.

With ample heating, colourful lighting and plants, the bar seems to offer an escape into a stylish secret garden, where you can sip your drink or dance to the beat of laid back house music

The Locke Bar

3 Georges Quay 061-413733 www.lockebar.com

The Locke Bar is one of Limerick's bestloved traditional Irish pub with an award winning seafood menu in the heart of Limerick City's medieval quarter.

The Locke is synonymous in Limerick as well as further afield for its genuine Irish hospitality, incredible atmosphere, delicious fresh seafood, extensive drinks menu and unforgettable trad music sessions and Irish dancing seven nights a week.

Trad music sessions and Irish dancing seven nights

The Locke is a pub for all seasons enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. In winter, customers cosy up to welcoming, open fires and in the summer, they enjoy al fresco dining in the extensive outdoor



seating area by the Abbey River—on the original site of one of Limerick's oldest pubs dating all the way back to 1724.

The Locke serves delicious food daily and menus to suit everyone - breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily until 10pm. Food served Monday-Friday 9am-10pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am-10pm.

If it's traditional Irish music that

you're after, then The Locke is just the right place for you. When the musicians strike up a 'sessúin' and get the 'craic' started, it's unique every time. Different musicians and a variety of instruments make sure each visit is one to remember not forgetting the Irish dancers.

For further info email enquiries@lockebar.com.

The Market Quarter

This area near Limerick's famous Milk Market has an array of vibrant pubs and clubs.



Phil Flannery's Bar 2 Denmark Street

061-419761 www.philflannerys.com

"Come in for a chat and stay for the craie" is the motto at this friendly, family-run bar in the very heart of the city.

Located in Limerick's Market Quarter, the service at Phil Flannery's is all about the personal touch and the amiable staff complement the great pint of plain.

When it comes to food, quality and value is always on the menu with breakfast served from 10am and light snacks and full meals through to 10pm, Monday to Friday and to 5pm on Saturday.

Sports fans will be right at home watching the top sports contests of the day—whether it be soccer, rugby, GAA, golf and more, displayed on a choice of eight screens. There are always some barstool experts waiting to talk sports.

Flannery's livens up even more on weekends with live bands as a regular fixture. Musicians who have played here include Irish folk legend, John Spillane.

The stylish marble-clad exterior is one improvement made in extensive renovations in 2007 and another popular addition was the state of the art beer garden/smoking area on the second floor. Inside, the spacious bar and lounge is laid out with comfort in mind, including features like an open fire and free Wi-Fi. There is a function room, which is available for any occasion too.

The bar opens until 1am on Friday and Saturday nights. As any one of the regulars will tell you Flannery's aims to be a true local so a warm welcome is always waiting here.

DID YOU KNOW?

Twinning

Limerick is twinned with several places in three different countries, including its township namesake in Pennsylvania in the USA. The others are: Ouimper (France). New Brunswick, New Jersey (USA), Starogard, Gdanski (Poland), Spokane, Washington (USA), Kansas City, Kansas (USA) and Lowell, Massachusetts (USA).





Che Guevara

Famed revolutionary, Che Guevara, visited Limerick once in 1965 when his flight was forced to land at Shannon Airport. Irish Times journalist, Arthur Quinlan, interviewed him - becoming the only western journalist to have done so. The story has it that the journalist even taught Guevara how to make an Irish coffee in what was the former Hanratty's Hotel in Glentworth Street in the city.

Michael Flannery's

17 Upper Denmark Street 061-436677 www.flannerysbar.ie

Michael Flannery's Pub is well known in Limerick and its owner is one of the city's longest serving publicans, working in the family business since 1959.

Located on Denmark Street, just around the corner from the famous Milk Market, its vibrant red frontage is set off against a beautiful stone facade.

Michael's grandfather, William, opened the first Flannery's pub in 1898. Michael is one of the last remaining local publicans who bottled his own Jameson whiskey from the cask until the mid 1960s and there is a beautiful display of the materials he used in the pub. Thus began his love affair with Irish whiskey and the pub has over 140 different types—one of the largest collections in Ireland.

✓ William, opened the first Flannery's pub in 1898

Visitors can discover all the different types by consulting a personally compiled 'Whiskey Bible', which lists them all with tasting notes.

Flannery's is also known for serving an excellent pint of Guinness and offering Limerick's largest selection of Irish craft and world beers, currently

numbering over 50. Try local craft beers such as White Gypsy and with rotating taps, there's always something for everyone whether you prefer an IPA to a Stout to a Weissbier.

The décor is authentic with a stove, grocery-style bar counter and a snug, perfect for two old friends catching up or a larger group attending a Whiskey Tasting Session.

L Thus began a love affair with Irish whiskey and the pub has over 140 different types

At the rear, there is a courtyard overlooked by a roof terrace with a spacious contemporary bar behind.

All major sporting events are shown with a multitude of screens scattered around, but not in Michael's pub, which is a TV free zone to encourage good conversation. There is live music and DJs most nights in the adjoining bar, rocking Denmark Street until the small hours.

Flannery's is one of those 'split personality' bars that has something for everyone, giving the customer the traditional Irish pub with a modern twist.

For more information, see www. facebook.com/flannerysbarlimerick, Twitter @FlannerysBar, Instagram @ flannerys bar limerick or email info@ flannerysbar.ie.



Smyth's Bar

Denmark Street 061-310766 www.iconniteclub.com/smyths-bar

Smyth's Bar is synonymous with great nights out in Limerick with its potent mix of live entertainment, tasty food and drink at top prices with efficient service.

Established nearly a decade ago, it is a popular beat in the heart of the 'Market Quarter' and is more often than not buzzing with energy.

Just beyond the entrance is a large smoking area; within, there is plenty of space whether sitting, standing or dancing in the tasteful interior. The vibe is contemporary with leather seats and wrought-iron fixtures.

《 A popular beat in the heart of the 'Market Quarter'

Smyth's has a good range of food on offer during the day, including breakfast, served from 9am Monday to Saturday. Smyth's offers a fine choice of sandwiches/light bites and hot lunches Monday to Friday from 12-3pm followed by an à la carte menu from 3-6pm. There are daily deals and weekly specials available. On Sundays, hot carvery lunches are available from 12.30-6pm.

By night, the bar aims to have live music seven nights a week and has top Irish bands such as Big Generator and



Free Beer on a regular basis, with no cover charge. Smyth's has a full drinks menu including craft beers and cocktails along with drinks promotions. These include the '5 for €16' deal with certain bottled drinks and a handy bucket of ice to keep them cold.

Smyth's is connected to the Icon Nightclub so you can go from pub to club seamlessly. Entry is free from Smyth's from Monday to Wednesday.

Smyth's Icon Nightclub Denmark Street

Seven nights a week, two levels, two dance floors and five bars all filled with a chic and fun party atmosphere — The

Icon is Limerick's largest and "Ireland's

www.iconniteclub.com

best nightclub" with a party happening every night of the week.

It was voted as the best club in the country in the Smirnoff 'Battle of the Clubs' contest, fighting off stiff competition from other venues.

It is spread over two levels, with two huge dance-floors, five bars and several smoking areas. The Icon has everything a modern nightclub should have and attracts huge crowds. Visitors can kick back in one of many alcoves and sip one of the signature cocktails or just dance the night away to your favourite tunes.

Kick back in one of many alcoves and sip one of the signature cocktails or just dance the night away

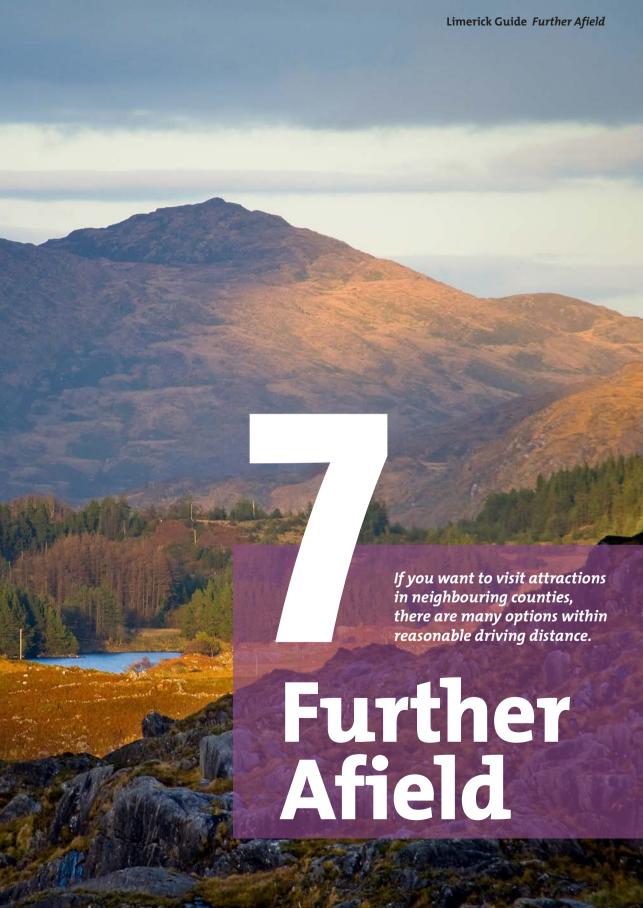
Entry is free from Smyth's from Monday to Wednesday.

Thursday is Ladies Night where women have free entry.

On selected nights, the two floors each have their distinct music. The downstairs dance-floor might have R n B and current chart hits playing where upstairs would have tunes from the 70s, 80s and 90s.

There is something for everyone and the club is known for its fantastic atmosphere.





Explore more

There is a huge variety of sites and experiences not to be missed in Limerick's neighbouring counties, a reasonable drive away. The following are just some of the many places of interest on Limerick's doorstep...

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty, Co. Clare 061-360788

At Ireland's premier visitor attraction you are invited to explore three wonderful experiences—the spectacular 15th century Bunratty Castle, the 19th century Bunratty Folk Park and the Village Street. Whether for a daytime visit or an evening banquet, Bunratty Castle has lots to enjoy. Knappogue Castle & Walled Garden is also situated in neighbouring Clare.

Craggaunowen Co. Clare 061-360788

Dubbed "Ireland's original award winning pre-historic park",
Craggaunowen allows visitors to step back over 1,000 years ago to explore the roots of our Celtic ancestors, who shaped how we live today. Immerse yourself in the traditions and dwellings of the Crannóg people, wander through the woods to see real wildlife and see the magnificent, leather hulled 'Brendan Boat', built by Tim Severin, who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean re-enacting the voyage of St Brendan.

The Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark

Co. Clare 065-7072295

The 250 square kilometre area in north Clare known as The Burren is one of the largest karst landscapes in Europe—a unique rocky terrain made of limestone. The Cliffs of Moher are over 200 metres high and run for over eight kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean. Over 30,000 pairs of seabirds, including several protected species, nest at the Cliffs of Moher. The Burren has many historical and archaeological sites including ringforts and dolmens as well as many rare Irish species of flora and fauna. It also boasts walking trails and activities like rock-climbing. Ireland's smallest national park, The Burren National Park (065-6827693) also occupies 15 square kilometres of the landscape.

Brian Boru Heritage Centre

Killaloe, Co. Clare 061-370788

The small Clare town of Killaloe was once the capital of Ireland as the 11th century seat of heroic king, Brian Boru. The exhibition at the centre traces the life story of Ireland's greatest monarch

whose army defeated a Viking invasion at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. Killaloe itself is made up of charming shops and narrow streets and crossing the bridge, visitors can find themselves in the Tipperary town of Ballina. Set on Lough Derg, the area is a centre of leisure activities like boating and other watersports.

Nenagh Heritage Centre/Museum

Nenagh, Co. Tipperary o67-33850

From Limerick, Nenagh is less than 40 minutes' drive and this unique museum is located in the 19th century gaol buildings in the town. There is a diverse range of topics covered here from the history of the structure itself to old rural Ireland. The stories are told through a mix of audio-visual elements, models, artefact displays and hands-on exhibits. After visiting the museum, you can also take a tour of the Gatehouse to follow in the footsteps of condemned prisoners and hear the story of some in detail. There are occasional art exhibitions and events.

Immerse yourself in the traditions









The Rock of Cashel Cashel, Co. Tipperary 062-61437

Overlooking the town of Cashel, there is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone. These include a 12th century round tower, high cross and Romanesque chapel, a 13th century Gothic cathedral, a 15th century castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars choral. This exciting stroll through centuries of history on a single site is complemented through an audio-visual show and exhibitions. Guided tours are available but visitors are advised to check times etc.

Spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone

Fota Wildlife Park Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork 021-4812678

Around 20 minutes from Cork City, Fota Island is home to a 75-acre wildlife park featuring both flora and fauna of Irish and more exotic origins. You can see animals like gibbons, wallabies, prairie dogs, monkeys, tapirs, cheetahs, ostriches, lemurs, giraffes, flamingos, kangaroos, zebras, seals, bison and more. The park is also home to many tree and plant species. There are tours and activity days that make for a fun family day out.

Blarney Castle Blarney, Co. Cork 021-4385252

A few kilometres outside Cork City lies the world famous Blarney Castle and stone. The current keep was built by the MacCarthy clan and dates from the 15th century but earlier fortifications are thought to have been based on the same site. It has a fascinating history, with sieges and tales galore. Large parts of the castle are intact. At its top, the main attraction is the 'Stone of Eloquence'—better known as 'The Blarney Stone'. Legend has it that if you kiss it, you will get "the gift of the gab"!

Killarney National Park

Killarney, Co. Kerry 064-6631440

Ireland's very first national park now covers almost 25,000 acres. This beautiful expanse includes the Lakes of Killarney, lush forests of oak and yew trees, boglands, mountains and is home to the country's only native herd of Red Deer. Other highlights include historical sites like Ross Castle, Muckross Abbey and the mansion, Muckross House and Gardens, one-time home to the family that donated land to found the national park.

Nearby beaches

Several seaside towns and villages are within reach of Limerick by car, so if the weather is fine, many people head to the beach. In Clare, Lahinch, Kilkee, Spanish Point and Fanore are some of the most popular beaches for both swimming and watersports like surfing. In Kerry, Ballybunion beach and others like Banna Strand near Tralee are favourites with holidaymakers.

Accommodation



CITY HOTELS

Woodfield House Hotel

Ennis Road t: 061-453022 www.woodfieldhousehotel.com

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Limerick

Ennis Road t: 061-456200 www.radissonblu.ie/hotel-limerick

Kilmurry Lodge Hotel

Dublin Road, Castletroy t: 061-331133 www.kilmurrylodge.com

Limerick Strand Hotel

Ennis Road t: 061-421800 www.strandhotellimerick.ie

Castletroy Park Hotel

Dublin Road t: 061-335566 www.castletroypark.ie

South Court Hotel and Suites

Raheen Roundabout, Adare Road t: 061-487487 www.southcourthotel.com

The George Boutique Hotel

O'Connell Street t: 061-460400 www.thegeorgeboutiquehotel.com

Maldron Hotel Limerick

John Carew Link Road, Roxboro t: 061-436100 www.maldronhotellimerick.com

No 1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa

Pery Square t: 061-402402 www.oneperysquare.com

Clayton Hotel

Steamboat Quay t: 061-444100 www.claytonhotellimerick.com

Limerick City Hotel

Lower Mallow Street t: 061-207000 www.limerickcityhotel.ie

The Savoy Hotel

Henry Street t: 061-448700 www.savoylimerick.com

Absolute Hotel & Spa

Sir Harry's Mall t: 061-463600 www.absolutehotel.com

Pery's Hotel

Glentworth Street t: 061-413822 www.perys.ie

Greenhills Hotel

Caherdavin, Ennis Road t: 061-453033 www.greenhillsgroup.com

The Pier Hotel

Sarsfield Bridge t: 061-317179 www.thepierhotellimerick.com

Travelodae

Coonagh Roundabout, Ennis Road t: 061-457000 Castletroy t: 061-603500 www.travelodge.ie

CITY BED & BREAKFASTS

Glen Eagles

Ennis Road t: 061-455521

Armada Lodge

Ennis Road t: 061-326993 www.armadalodgebandb.com

Moyrhee

Meelick t: 061-326300 www.moyrhee.com

Avondale

Cratloe Road t: 061-451697 www.avondalebedandbreakfast.ie

Coonagh Lodge

Coonagh t: 061-327050 www.coonaghlodge.com

CITY GUESTHOUSES

The Boutique

Denmark Street t: 061-315320 www.theboutique.ie

COLINTY HOTELS

Dunraven Arms Hotel

Adare t: 061-305900

www.dunravenhotel.com

Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort

Adare

t: 061-605200 www.adaremanor.com

Fitzgerald's Woodland's House Hotel

Adare

t: 061-605100

www.woodlands-hotel.ie

The Mustard Seed @ Echo Lodge

Ballingarry t: 069-68508

www.mustardseed.ie

Castle Oaks House Hotel

Castleconnell t: 061-377666 www.castleoaks.je

Devon Inn Hotel

Templeglantine t: 069-84122 www.devoninnhotel.ie

Deebert House Hotel

Kilmallock t: 063-31200

www.deeberthousehotel.com

Rathkeale House Hotel

Rathkeale t: 069-63333

www.rathkealehousehotel.ie

Leen's Hotel

Abbeyfeale t: 068-31121

www.facebook.com/pg/ LeensHotelAbbeyfeale

COUNTY BED & BREAKFASTS

Coatesland House B&B

Adare

t: 061-396372

www.coateslandhouse.com

Berkeley Lodge

Adare

t: 061-396857

www.adare.org

Carrigane House

Adare

t: 061-396778

www.carriganehouse.com

Park Lodge

Abbeyfeale

t: 068 31312

www.parklodge.ie

The Orchard

Newcastle West

Deebert House B&B

Kilmallock

t: 063-98106 www.deeberthouse.com

The Old Bank B&B

Bruff

t: 061-389969

www.theoldbank.ie

Woodview B&B

Kilfinane

t: 063-91106

Shanagarry B&B

Newcastle West

t: 069-61747

www.shanagarrybnb.com

Cedar Lodge

Patrickswell

t: 061-355137

Millbank House & Angling Centre

Murro

t: 061- 386115

www.millbankhouse.com

Fitzgerald's Farmhouse & Equestrian Centre

Abbeyfeale

Coolrahnee House

Askeaton

t: 061-398883

CARAVAN & CAMPING

Curraghchase Caravan & Camp

Kilcornan,

t: 061-396349

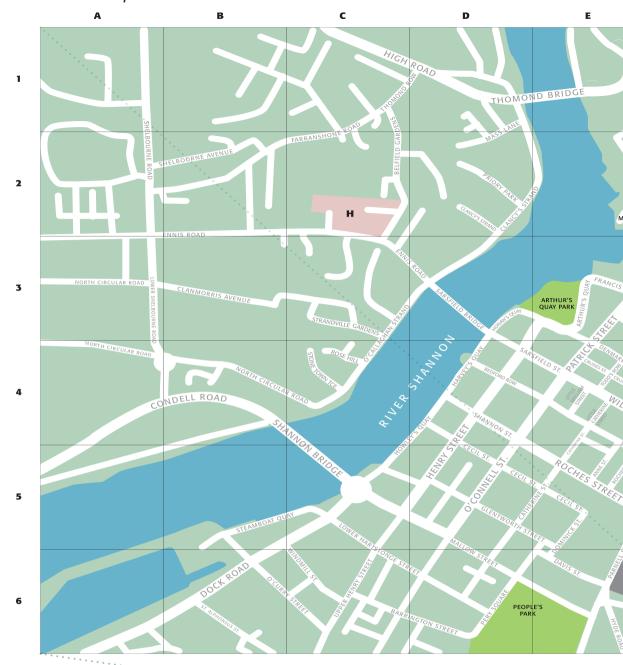
www.curraghchasecaravanpark.ie

This is just a selection of accommodation available. For even more options in Limerick City and County, including self-catering, see www.discoverireland.ie and www.failteireland.ie.









History & Heritage

King John's Castle- E1

Lough Gur Heritage Centre- *H6 (Follow Mulgrave St. to Kilmallock Roundabout and R512, Lough Gur)*

St John's Cathedral- *G4* St Mary's Cathedral- *F2* The Bishop's Palace- *F1*

The Treaty Stone- D1

Arts & Culture & Education

Ballymorris Pottery- A3 (Follow Ennis Rd. to Ballymorris/Cratloe)

anymorns/cratioe)

 $\textbf{Belltable-} \, D6$

Limerick City Gallery of Art- D6

Limerick Museum- E2

The Hunt Museum- E3

The Lime Tree Theatre- A6 (Follow Dock Rd. to Courtbrack Ave. to Mary Immaculate College)

University Concert Hall- H2 (Follow Dublin Rd. to Castletroy, University of Limerick)

Activities

Ballyhoura Trailriders - H6 (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd., R513, Caherconlish)

Limerick Greyhound Stadium- A'6 (Follow Dock Rd. to Greenpark)

Nevsail Watersports & Rock Climbing- E3 Paddywagon Tours (Arthur's Quay SC)- E3 Shannon Ferries- Ring 065-9053124 for details

Thomond Park Experience- C1 (Follow High Rd. to Cratloe Rd.)

Tons of Fun Children's Activity Centre- H6 (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd.)



Restaurants & Cafés

Copper and Spice- H2 (Follow Dublin Road

to Annacotty)

Hamptons- D4

Harry's on the River- F3

Hong Kong-F4

Lana- D4 (also Dublin Road & Raheen)

Luigi's- E6

Off the Bone- C6 (Follow O'Connell St./Ave. to Ballinacurra Rd. to St. Nessan's Rd.)

Texas Steakout- E_4

The Copper Room- D5

Tuscany Bistro at The Granary- F3 (also Newtown Centre, Annacotty - Follow Dublin Road to Annacotty)

Pubs

101- D5

Bobby Byrnes- C6 (Follow O'Connell St.

towards O'Connell Ave)

Collins' Bar- C6 (Follow O'Connell St./Ave. to

Ballinacurra Rd. to Dooradoyle Rd.)

Dolan's Pub- B6

Fennessy's- A6 or C6 (Follow Dock Rd. to Courtbrack Ave. or follow O'Connell St./Ave.

to New St.)

Flannery's Bar (Shannon Street)- D4

Michael Flannery's Pub- F4

Mickey Martin's- E4

Myles Breen's- D4

Phil Flannery's- E4

Smyth's Bar/Icon Nightclub- F4

The Glen Tavern- D5

The Horse & Hound Bar- G5

Locke Bar - F3

WJ South's- C6

Shopping

Connolly Man- E3 (and other branches in D4 and C6, follow O'Connell St./Ave. towards Ballinacurra Rd, Dooradoyle)

Crescent Shopping Centre- C6 (Follow O'Connell St./Ave. towards Ballinacurra Rd., Dooradoyle)

M. Cahill & Son- F5

The Milk Market- F4

The Wine Buff- D6



TOURISM:

Limerick Tourist Office 20 O'Connell Street 061-317522

Adare Tourist Office Adare, Co. Limerick 061-396255

www.limerick.ie tourism@limerick.ie

TRANSPORT:

Colbert Station (Bus & Train) Parnell Street 061-315555

www.irishrail.ie www.buseireann.ie

Dublin Coach (M7 Express Service)
Dublin to Ennis/Killarney/Tralee (via
Limerick)
01-4659972
www.dublincoach.ie

FMFRGFNCY:

Emergency Services

General Emergency Number (fire, ambulance etc): 999 or 112

Garda / Police

Henry Street Garda Station Henry Street 061-212400

Roxboro Garda Station Roxboro Road 061-214340

Bruff Garda Station Bruff, Co. Limerick 061-382947

Newcastle West Garda Station Newcastle West, Co. Limerick 069-20650

See **www.garda.ie** for a full list of Garda Stations in Limerick.

Medical

University Hospital Limerick Dooradoyle 061-301111

Shannon Doc (Out of hours GP service) 1850-212999

Shannon Doc Centres

Dooradoyle Health Centre, Off St. Nessans Road, Dooradoyle

Hospital Health Centre, Knockainey Road, Hospital, Co. Limerick

Shannondoc Surgery, Bishop Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick

See www.hse.ie for a full list of registered General Practitioners in Limerick.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cranberries

Limerick band. The Cranberries. are one of the most successful alternative rock bands from Ireland. This internationally acclaimed group was formed in Limerick in 1989. The core group consists of bothers, Mike and Noel Hogan, Fergal Lawler and Dolores O'Riordan. The band gained an international profile with their debut album, Everybody Else Is Doing It. So Why Can't We? in 1993. Their second album, No Need to Arque, went triple platinum within a year with the number one hit single, 'Zombie'. To date, the band has had hit the Top 20 on the Billboard 200 with four of their albums and has had eight top 20 singles on the US Modern Rock Tracks chart, as well as significant success worldwide. In 2003. The Cranberries went on hiatus but reunited in 2011 to record a sixth album, Roses, which was released in 2012. The band released an acoustic album titled Something Happens, in 2017. Unfortunately Dolores passed away in January 2018 while in London for a recording session, leaving the band without its lead singer. She had previously recorded vocals for a new album which the rest of the band hope to finish and release in 2019.

OTHER:

General Post Office Lower Cecil Street

See www.anpost.ie for a full list of post offices and services in Limerick.



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