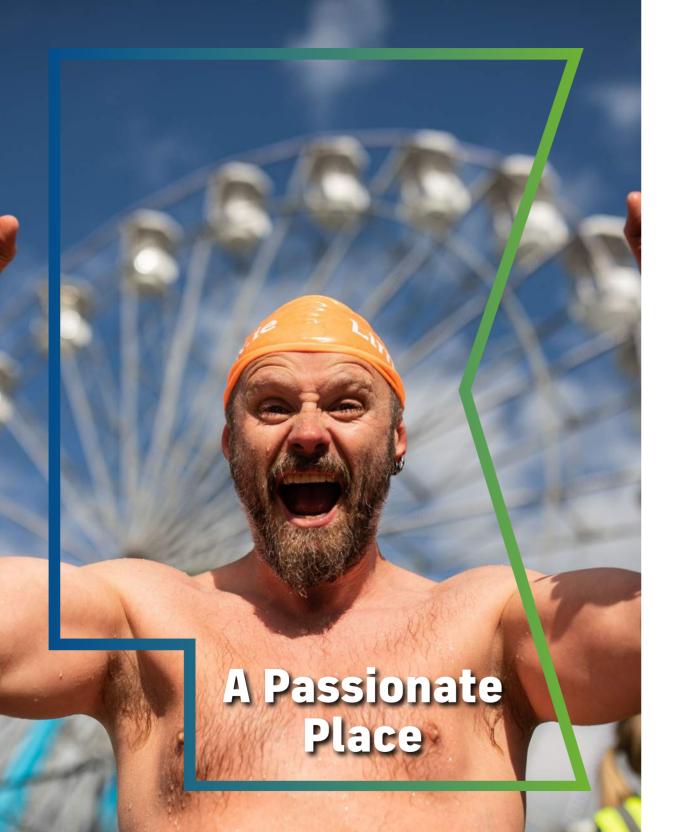
THE BEST OF IRELAND Series

LIMERICK



EMBRACE A VIBRANT CITY AND COUNTY



The Best Of Ireland Series



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Limerick: Atlantic Edge - European

et on the mighty River Shannon, Limerick tells a compelling story; of a journey 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 812AD, 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 was granted its charter! 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. These ruins still exist.

66 Limerick is a 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 flourishing 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 significant 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 currency! Following independence in 1922 came vision, and one of the highlights and major developments was 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 that aims to transform Limerick through the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City centre and the wider region. Plans are also being developed to reimagine our unique waterfront and public realm to make them an even bigger magnet for people to relax and unwind.

In recent years, important heritage sites such as King John's Castle have been developed. There have been massive changes to the industrial landscape and Limerick's outward appearance.

The revamp of older buildings as well as the construction of new structures such as the iconic Riverpoint and Thomond Park Stadium has added new vibrancy.

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 I- acclaimed actor Richard Harris; BBC broadcaster Terry Wogan; businessman and philanthropist JP McManus and technology entrepreneurs John and Patrick Collison. Limerick is renowned as a sporting county. The senior hurling team (Ireland's national sport) are current All-Ireland champions having won the title four times in the past five years since 2018, and this year going for a historic four in a row. The success of the Munster Rugby team internationally and Limerick's hosting of the Special Olympic Ireland Games in 2010 and 2014, along with world championships for lacrosse, frisbee and quidditch are just some of the sporting events Limerick has to offer.

66 Ambition to carve its own niche on the international landscape

Adare Manor will host the Ryder Cup in 2027, ensuring the golfing world's eye is trained squarely on Limerick.

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.

Today, Limerick has a reputation as a modern city with the friendly feel of a town. It now has a growing multi-cultural 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's new brand - Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace reflects Limerick ambition to carve its own niche on the international landscape. It is a rallying cry to help everyone see Limerick as a destination with energy, edge, warmth and intent. The brand has been designed to appeal to visitors, students, businesses, investors and locals alike.

Limerick is known by locals 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.

61

Limerick has a rich history and strong heritage, which remains ever present in its structures, its streets and its people.

History & Heritage



St. Mary's Cathedral Bridge Street 061 310293 www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

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

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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.limerickcathedral.com

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

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.

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

Bishop's Palace Church Street 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.



Jacobite commander, Patrick Sarsfield, who 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.

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



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DATE CALLER SIL

Embracing a

here's a real sense of momentum in Limerick – a Wild Atlantic Way Gateway City. A historic city and county and just a short hop from Shannon International Airport, Limerick is increasingly seen as a hotbed of innovation and one of Europe's most progressive and future focused cities. For Limerick, this means opportunity and some of that momentum is already paying off with a fresh brand identity already paying dividends.

66 Limerick: Atlantic Edge, European Embrace

Instigated and delivered by Limerick City and County Council, Brand Limerick is one of a series of developments designed to transform Limerick into a location that is delivering as a key national catalyst of growth, a vibrant tourist destination and one that is helping to deliver balanced regional development along the West coast.

The aim of the brand is to put a firm focus on marketing the capital of the Mid-West as a destination with an edge and point of difference and as a place of incredibly warm welcome. Ireland became the largest native, English-speaking nation in the EU in 2020; an opportunity maximised by Limerick City and Council who launched the brand: Limerick – Atlantic Edge, European Embrace, designed

Edge, European Embrace, designed to reflect the county's rich landscape and strategic location at the mouth of the River Shannon, flowing into the Atlantic.

The aim of the narrative was ambitious, to internationalise Limerick, assert its place in the world and its

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positive relevance today and the brand positions Limerick as the country's 'go-to' destination for living, working, tourism and investment and as a sustainable green city region.

The future looks bright for Limerick, which is widely regarded as an attractive and inclusive place. Culture is everywhere, from street art and live music to a calendar bursting with festivals and events. With a history that goes back to the Vikings (and a charter older even than London), Limerick promises so much. Limerick, a former European City of Sport has sport for everyone; it is also home to the incredible, 40KM Limerick Greenway.

Limerick is a destination with new energy and intent, particularly exhibited by the local population, be they businesses or individuals.

66 The future looks bright for tourism developments in Limerick

For more details on Limerick, log on to Limerickie the official guide to Limerick or follow these hashtags on social **#Limerick #LimerickEdgeEmbrace #HowLimerick**



WALK THE BRIDGES THREE BRIDGES THREE BRIDGES Starting at Arthur's Quay Park. Starting at Arthur's Quay Park Standing route along the Shanon crossing banks of the Shanon crossing banks

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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

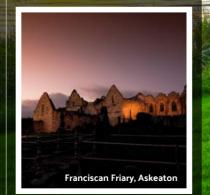
With its thatched cottages and grand manor house, Adare is a picturesque village with a rich history. The shell of Desmond Castle, which shadows the banks of the River Maigue outside the village, and the Franciscan, Trinitarian and Augustinian Abbeys suggest a longterm settlement. But the village itself really sprang up in the 18th century when the Earl of Dunraven built a huge house and estate. Rebuilt in the 19th century, 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 well-preserved 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 wellequipped leisure complex.

Kilmallock History Trail

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 with the wellpreserved ruins of the Dominican Friary, there are the remains of



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

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 061 621000 www.glenstal.com/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.

Desmond Hall

Outside of the city, Limerick county abounds with many more sites of historical interest, and The Desmond Banqueting Hall in Newcastle West is among the most impressive of these. Built in the 15th century, the two-storey 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.

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

Image: Lough Gur

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STUDENT CITY

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Education

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President of University of Limerick, Prof. Kersten May Castletroy, Co. Limerick 061 202700 www.ul.ie

University of Limerick is a researchled, independent, internationally focused university with over 18,300 students and almost 2,000 staff. It is a young, energetic and enterprising university with a proud record of innovation in education and excellence in research and scholarship for an enhanced student journey. Sitting on a 360 acre site, the UL campus, as well as being awardwinning, is one of the most beautiful green spaces in the country, a place for the discovery of knowledge and a better understanding of the world and ourselves. Above all, with the students and staff at its core, UL is a vital force for realising the full cultural, social and economic potential of the communities it serves both

President of Mary Immaculate College, Prof. Eugene Wall South Circular Rd, Limerick, 061 204300 www.micul.ie

As President of this ambitious university-level institution, I am proud to say that Mary Immaculate College (MIC) continues to be an innovative contributing partner in the economic, social and cultural development of our surrounding environs and of the broader Irish educational landscape.

At the heart of our reputation is care for our students' well-being and this remains the core principle which underpins our strategic mission. MIC works to ensure that that our programmes are available to all learners whatever their background may be and that everything we do is informed by high-quality research. We continue to work to ensure the physical resources of the College, both in Limerick and Thurles, as well as our expertise, are made available to our



Those partnerships allow for deeper

learnings and for some of the most

to emerge from UL. In addition

to that, our strong academic and

growing international research

employable graduates in the country

profile has attracted talented people

across a broad range of disciplines,

nationalities and cultures to come

here to study, live and work.

to the region and beyond.

visiting academics.

Century workplace.

From that proud history we

are building for a future that will

sustainably deepen our commitment

to travel to visit institutions in other

enriched by the presence of a growing

number of international students and

Our ultimate aim is to serve our

learning community ensuring that each

individual has the potential and means

for professional excellence and, in the

case of students, the wherewithal for

career entry and success in the 21st

countries and our campuses are

inside and outside the campus. Embedded in that attractiveness is our ability to be a dynamic catalyst for change – something that has existed since our inception as NIHE. UL is the first University to develop a mission-led approach to sustainability and has also developed its Climate Action Roadmap for carbon neutrality. Founded on that, UL has the capacity to build and sustain deep and mutually beneficial relationships with industry and continues to be a major driver of this region's economic prosperity and social transformation.

66 MIC prepares students for professional excellence

neighbours and our wider community. Our international profile continues to go from strength-to-strength with students and staff having opportunities

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President of TUS Professor Vincent Cunnane

Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) TUS Moylish Campus, Moylish Park, Limerick 061 293000 www.tus.ie

Officially established on October 1st, 2021, TUS is a new powerhouse university, driving development and investment across the Midlands and Midwest. Benefiting from an already strong and vibrant 220 year heritage of education and learning in the wider region, TUS is an agile and adaptable university, with the capabilities and talent to advance higher education in Ireland.

Through applied learning and fresh thinking, our focus is on meeting the evolving needs of society and industry, within our region and beyond across our six campuses in Athlone, Clonmel, Ennis, Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD), Moylish and Thurles. TUS is also

Chief Executive Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, George O'Callaghan www.lcetb.ie

Established in 2013. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's foundations date back more than a century through the Athenaeum movement, technical instruction committees and the Vocational Education Committees. Since then the ETB has remained consistent in its provision of education at primary, at post-primary, and at further and tertiary education levels; currently offering education and training to over 38,000 students and learners in the region. Its capacity, flexibility and responsiveness allows it to deliver the highest level of public service, thanks to our dedicated and committed 2,500 staff.

Our students and learners are at the heart of what we do as an ETB and we are committed to ensuring



66 TUS is a new powerhouse university

to education in our country, demonstrating a commitment to shared values like inclusivity, accessibility, and supportiveness. And with more than 14,000 students enrolling in hundreds of courses every year across four counties, our story has only just begun.

we provide clear pathways to our education and training programmes, youth work and other services. One of our strategic priorities is to work in partnership with major stakeholders in the region including University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest. This helps strengthen progression pathways into Third Level for our Post-Primary students and Further Education and Training learners.

a member of a new centralised

European Education Area (EEA),

which means that students will have

ample opportunity to study abroad at

multiple partner universities across

student offering. When we combine

next-generation thinking, we can help

regional development take a big step

forward through education, research,

For our nation, a technological

and commercial collaboration.

university in the Midlands and

Midwest adds a new dimension

Europe, further strengthening our

this student-first philosophy with





The Best Of Ireland Series

Limerick's World Class University



As one of Ireland's foremost universities, and with one of the most spectacular settings in Europe, University of Limerick sits just outside Limerick City on a superb parkland riverside campus of over 360 acres.

The university has almost 2,000 staff and is a leading economic driver in the region that boasts a proud record of innovation, excellence in education and engagement with industry, and values creativity, curiosity and excellence in an inclusive community which is committed to social good.

It is recognised for research strengths in the areas of Materials, Manufacturing, Software, Science and Engineering, and Medicine/Health and UL graduates have an employment rate higher than the national average. UL offers undergraduate and post graduate programmes underpinned by research led teaching across a wide range of disciplines through its faculties – the Kemmy Business School, Education and Health Sciences, Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and Science and Engineering.

Walks at UL

With a strong commitment to fostering biodiversity on campus the grounds of University of Limerick is the perfect place for walking, running or biking with a number of nature walks and trails. The university's landscape which has been expanded and enhanced over the past 50 years from a single building to over 50, has been designed around the natural beauty of the parkland campus and a complex ecosystem of flora and fauna.

While many of the mature trees of the original estate were removed before the establishment of UL there are a number of significant survivors

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which are immensely important and are a strong link to the historical landscape of the site. Since the inception of the university additional planting of both exotic and native species in its parkland setting has been undertaken every year.



Art at UL

There are over 2,400 paintings, drawings, sculptures and decorative objects in the University of Limerick. The University is home to many National Collections including The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, The Watercolour Society of Ireland National Collection, The Helen Hooker O'Malley Roelofs Sculpture Trust and The Armitage Collection.

It also hosts 8 contemporary, historic and cultural collections including Molas from the San Blas Islands and the Conlan Coin Collection.



Olympic-size swimming pool, an indoor running track, a multi-purpose sports hall seating 1,000 people, a state of the art gym and other facilities.

The newest addition to the UL Sport Arena is the largest indoor climbing wall in Ireland. Facilities at the UL Sport Arena are open for use by the public where it is not unusual to find yourself training beside Olympic champions or the famous Munster Rugby Team.

Entertainment at UL

There is a range of cafés, restaurants and bars all across the UL campus including the award-winning East Room Restaurant at Plassey House. There is also a fully programme of concerts, shows and performances throughout the year at the University Concert Hall.

For Further Information: Call: 061 202700 Email: www.ul.ie

Open to the public every day is the

outdoor public sculpture collection

which hosts the Sean Scully Wall of

Sports at UL

Light, Antony Gormley's Together and

Apart, Tom Fitzgerald's Leaf Litany and

Alexandra Wjechert's Geometric Forms.

Also known as 'Ireland's Sporting

Campus' UL has extensive sporting

and recreation facilities including a

selection of pitches, tracks, courts

facilities) and Ireland's largest

(including custom-built all-weather

indoor sports complex-the UL Sport

Dynamic, Close-Knit Community at the Heart of Diverse & Vibrant Campuses

Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Moylish Campus, LSAD, Thurles Campus, Clonmel Campus, Ennis Campus 061 293000 www.tus.ie

Ireland's first cross-regional university, Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) is home to 15,000+ students and up to 2,000 staff members across the Mid West and Midlands. There are currently two TUS campuses in Limerick city - the Moylish Campus in Moylish Park and the Limerick School of Art and Design (LSAD) on Clare Street; with a third campus specialising in engineering education and research opening in Coonagh in January 2024.TUS also has four additional campuses in Athlone, Thurles, Clonmel, and Ennis At the heart of each of the diverse

and vibrant TUS campuses is a dynamic, close-knit community of learners who come together as one united college community. These close connections are also evident among the university's partnerships with industry, business, culture and arts, communities, regions, country and Europe through the

RUN EU alliance, a higher education network working to increase cooperation between universities and institutes across Europe. In March of this year (2023), TUS launched its four-year Strategic Plan. A new beginning for TUS, this strategic plan set out a vision for an ambitious. networked, integrated Technological University that will be a catalyst for sustainable change through education and research that transforms lives, the region and the world beyond. It also set out the university's key strategic priorities which include education. research, people and organisation, as well as connecting communities.

TUS currently incorporates eight research institutes, generating income ranging from €10 - €15 million annually. Together they spearhead pioneering initiatives in the areas of creative arts. manufacturing, engineering, social science, health, sustainability and beyond. As partnership is a key driver of research, development and innovation. TUS nurtures ideas and enables the bright minds of the future to flourish, through interdisciplinarity and industry-led engagement. This approach generates a culture of collaboration, in addition to stimulating creativity, creating



real-world impact and fostering economic development in a regional, national and international capacity. A continued focus on partnership and innovation means that students of TUS gain invaluable knowledge and expertise through industry-relevant placements and live projects with a university that is primed to respond

to the needs of its stakeholders in ever-changing educational, economic and social landscapes. Among the many distinguishing factors of TUS is the importance it places on research informed applied learning that ensures its students are work-ready on graduating, with qualifications that are relevant now and into the future. With more than 250+ global partnerships, this new technological university provides students with a global experience through Erasmus and study abroad placements.

TUS offers undergraduate, postgraduate, vocational, and professional courses from Level 6 undergraduate courses right up to Level 10 PhDs. From applied sciences and technology to business, design, engineering, health science and more, there is a varied and exciting course journey for everyone at TUS. TUS offers flexible learning options

to fit busy life schedules with an

array of part-time online learning programmes that are stackable, modular and run for various periods of time. This reflects the need to provide flexibility for people who are studying while in the workplace.

Every year, students arrive at TUS from all over the world to follow inspiring and rewarding education paths. The range of courses at TUS is as diverse and varied as its student population with over 100 nationalities represented throughout TUS, enrolled in any one of the hundreds of courses available throughout the university.

Home to one of the longestestablished centres of art and design education in Ireland, the internationally renowned Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD) welcomes students to its Clare Street and George's Quay campuses. LSAD has an award-winning reputation, with its Fashion Department listed in the top 50 worldwide, and cuttingedge creative technologies on-site for student learning. Vibrant, living "canvas" inspired spaces for the creation, display and celebration of the artistic talents of its students; LSAD campuses are equipped with state-ofthe-art bespoke studios, workshops and technical spaces purpose-built for students. This campus adds an

additional dimension to the university's cultural offering, with opportunities for collaborations, exhibitions and events throughout the year.

The Students Union is the life and soul of the student experience at TUS and the home of an extensive range of support services, reflecting a helpful and inclusive atmosphere that's at the heart of TUS. A worldclass sports infrastructure and a thriving network of clubs and societies mean a vibrant college life is well and truly alive at TUS.



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MIC offers the complete student experience

Mary Immaculate College South Circular Road, V94 VN26 061 204300 www.mic.ie

Mary Immaculate College (MIC), a university-level College of Education and the Liberal Arts founded in 1898. offers a unique student experience underpinned by a supportive learning environment, real world skill development, and the opportunities given to learners to reach their full potential. This class-leading approach is applied across MIC's broad range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and is reflected in the College's leading degrees, great campus locations, student supports and facilities.

According to Dr Geraldine Brosnan MIC's Director of Student Life: "MIC places a strong emphasis on providing students with a range of appropriate supports on both its Limerick and Thurles campuses that respond to

their growing multiple and diverse needs, thus creating a learning environment which is multi-faceted, supportive and student-centered.

66 Students enjoy state-of-theart campuses offering ease of access to transport routes, cultural and social outlets

The College's support services are extensive and of very high quality. Part of our mission and vision is to create a community of learners where staff and students work together and our aim is to provide services, activities, and resources that maintain the College's educational enterprise while also supporting our students personally as

they learn, grow, and change through their time with us."

MIC's career focussed Level 8 programmes in Liberal Arts and Education include a Bachelor of Arts programme that has been running for over 25 years and offers students the chance to choose from 14 subjects. an exciting Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a BA in Early Childhood Care and Education that offers a challenging programme of study for those interested in working with young children. The College is also renowned for its range of degrees in primary and post-primary school teaching, including a new and exciting BA in Education, Home Economics and **Business Studies**

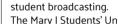
MIC offers a varied suite of postgraduate programmes from graduate certificate to doctoral level, with students benefiting from financial supports, peer-to-peer interaction, coaching, and mentoring. Along with taught master's, and

research-based degrees, MIC also specialises in Structured PhD routes which combine taught modules and research. Students can participate in transferable skills training which is offered alongside academic supervision appropriate to the candidate. Access to research resources and professional development opportunities are also available.

MIC's 5,000 plus students enjoy state-of-the-art campuses offering ease of access to transport routes, cultural, and social outlets. The Limerick campus is a mere 10-minute walk to the centre of Limerick City while MIC Thurles is located right in the heart of Thurles town. Both campuses have excellent learning, social and sporting spaces and are constantly being upgraded and developed.

The student experience is also enriched by the range of extracurricular activities on offer. The

College has a strong sporting tradition, with sport and recreation playing an important role in the lives of the students. MIC offers a number of sporting scholarships, bursaries, and awards in recognition of sporting excellence. There is also a wide selection of clubs and societies for students to join and Wired FM. a community station designed to cater for the third-level students of Limerick, is always looking for volunteers who want to try their hand at



The Mary I Students' Union, or MISU, is also a great resource and is all about giving students a voice, helping them use it, and enriching their experience.

Recent developments at the College include the unveiling of plans for a 21st century cutting-edge Library and Learning Resource Centre designed to accommodate the College's increasing student numbers.



Enhancing Lives Through Innovative Education

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board www.lcetb.ie

As one of 16 regional educational authorities across Ireland, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and its 2,500 staff serve over 38,000 students and learners throughout the region. This includes three Community National Schools, 18 Community Colleges, 28 Colleges of Further Education and Training campuses, as well as community education groups in almost 300 locations.

The ETB is constantly evolving and adapting to the needs of the communities it serves in Limerick, offering hundreds of full and parttime FET learning pathways at its multi-campus College of Further Education and Training. In addition to being part of the delivery of the National Apprenticeship programme, the ETB provides Traineeships, Youth Education and Literacy Services. It is also committed to ensuring a coordinated approach across schools and FET to help meet the educational needs of children and adults from Ukraine as part of Ireland's continuing response to the Ukrainian crisis. All learners are encouraged to 'Find the Best' in themselves through the exploration of the many different pathways on offer through FET. They are then provided with the tools to prepare for the realities of the everchanging and highly competitive national and global workplace.

The Best Of Ireland Series

One excellent example of this is the ETB's Green Skills initiative, which includes a national centre of excellence for Retrofitting and Nearly-Zero Energy Building (NZEB) skills in Roxboro, Limerick.

The centre provides training to approximately 1,500 learners a year, helping with the government target of retrofitting 500,000 homes in Ireland by 2030.



The ETB's College of FET Hospitality Campus in Roxboro is an EFQM European Centre of Excellence. It has strong links with the hospitality industry in Ireland and is renowned for providing the highest level of culinary and hospitality training. It is also an accredited college with the World Association of Chefs Societies as part of its Global Education Network, making it the first ETB campus in Ireland to achieve this prestigious accreditation.

Another ETB site being futureproofed for its learners is College of FET Mulgrave Street Campus, which is in line for a state-of-theart Film and Digital Media centre of excellence. This will allow the ETB, in collaboration with Film in Limerick and local industries like Troy Studios and Odyssey Studios, to be a leading provider of film and digital media education and training in the region.

In County Limerick, other centres of excellence within the multi-campus College of FET include Cappamore Campus, where learners are trained in the ancient art of Blacksmithing. The ETB's Organic Campus in Dromcollogher is highly regarded for its expertise in Horticulture, and Croom Campus is renowned for its impressive Equine programme.

66 The ETB is constantly evolving and adapting to the needs of the communities it serves

The ETB is also committed to providing all students in ETB Community National Schools and Community Colleges with an enhanced curriculum designed to help them to achieve their educational goals. This is further supported by excellent outdoor education and music initiatives designed to nurture their development. Students are encouraged to discover and then develop their passions as they study music, learn instruments and explore outdoor education and activities.

Music Education is provided by the ETB through Limerick School of Music, the largest of its kind in the region, as well as two Music Generation local music education partnerships in Music Generation Limerick City and Music Generation Limerick County. Outdoor Education and Training is another important aspect of the ETB's learning environment, providing high-quality learning experiences for students through a variety of waterbased. land-based and centre-based activities. Its Outdoor Education and Training Centre in Kilfinane boasts a wide range of programmes such as Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Kayaking, First Aid, Canoeing, Paddleboarding and so much more.

Through its network of schools, College of FET campuses, music and outdoor education experiences, the ETB is committed to enhancing the lives of students, learners and communities in Limerick.





The Bedford Townhouse Bedford House, 11-12 Bedford Row 061 204400 www.thebedford.ie

The Bedford is a boutique 12-bedroom property located in the heart of Limerick city. Lovingly restored, with original architectural features and stylish modern touches, this heritage townhouse is just the place for an urban luxury escape.

The Bedford Restaurant is located on the ground floor of the Townhouse and is the perfect space to meet friends, enjoy specialty coffee and sample the delicious all day brunch menu which is locally sourced.

66 This heritage townhouse is just the place for an urban luxury escape

Townhouse guests can choose between the Chic, Elegant or Suite bedrooms and avail of the Parlour Room hideaway, gym and steamroom to unwind. Step back in time with The Bedford Row Heritage Trail on display in The Parlour Room and learn about the clothes making history of this unique property. After a restful night's sleep, wake up to your

The Best Of Ireland Series

Breakfast in The Bedford Restaurant before exploring the many sights & attractions that Limerick has to offer.

The Bedford is also proud to be a sustainable business. All coffee cups and packaging materials in The Bedford Restaurant are 100% compostable. The Townhouse also provides guests with ecofriendly Anyah spa products; minimising its use of plastic.

66 A slick new addition to Limerick with lots of love for local materials and heritage, bang in the middle of the city

As a boutique property, The Bedford can tailor a personalised Limerick experience for each of their guests. Described by Pól Ó Conghaile as "a slick new addition to Limerick with lots of love for local materials and heritage, bang in the middle of the city" this is definitely one to add to the little black book for Limerick.

Follow The Bedford on: facebook.com/TheBedfordLimerick instagram.com/bedfordlimerick twitter.com/bedfordlimerick Limerick boasts an array of museums, galleries and entertainment venues with a strong and enhanced cultural scene.

Arts & Culture

l 27

Limerick The Culture Capital

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 had a passionate connection with its own rich heritage, culture and the arts. Limerick remains a vibrant cultural hub in the Ireland of 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.' Most recently, in 2019, the centenary year of the Soviet, 'Bread not Profits,' also by Mike Finn, was a spectacular and emotional production, which took over the historic Cleeves Condensed Milk factory. 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, bonecrunching 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."

66 It remains the most vibrant cultural hub in the midwest today

Marian Keyes is one of the world's most successful women authors with over 35 million books sold and having being translated into 33 different languages. Kate O'Brien (1897-1974) was a groundbreaking novelist, writer and journalist whose novels promoted gender equality and were mostly protagonised by young women yearning for independence. Though many of her works were banned, she is now considered to be a major 20th century Irish writer.

Limerick has also produced its fair share of stars of stage and screen. Oscar nominated actor, the late Richard Harris, of Gladiator and Harry Potter fame to name but two of his movies, and Ruth Negga (Passing, Loving, Shirley, Preacher) 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. Film director David Gleeson hails from Limerick.

Theatre - amateur and professional - and musical theatre has a massive presence here. Local companies include the Cecilian Musical Society, Limerick Musical Society, Quarry Players, College Players and Torch Players, Bottom Dog Theatre Company, Limerick Youth Theatre, Amalgamotion Theatre Company, Magic Roundabout Theatre Company,





Wildebeest Theatre Company, Beyond the Bark and Honest Arts These are in addition to many individual practitioners and groups working here, as well as a constant stream of touring productions in local venues.

Denise Chaila, MuRli and God Knows have been redrawing the music map in Limerick in the past few years and are taking their next phases in their careers playing to bigger and wider audiences. Local band The Cranberries and the late, lamented superstar Dolores O'Riordan have wowed stadiums across the globe, but other musical artists like Hermitage Green, 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 many diverse acts steadily building their own unique style.

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, while the Limerick Opera Festival has just completed its inaugural festival to universal acclaim.

Limerick-born John Gilhooly, musical director of Internationally renowned Wigmore Hall in London has seen links between Limerick and London.

Artists such as John Shinnors and Sean Keating, along with Ireland's only biennial art exhibition, EV+A 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, TUS 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. Limerick now has the Irish Fashion Incubator, which is building on the international reputation of LSAD, TUS 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. The University of Limerick. Technological University of the Shannon MidWest 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; and the legacy continues. 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.







Don't Miss!

 Experiencing tradition and history through interacting with it in Limerick's museums and heritage centres.

Beholding the visual art and sculpture on display in Limerick City Gallery of Art and other local galleries.

Joining the audience for a vibrant live performance in a nearby venue.

Getting out in the air to see some of the many examples of public art and monuments.

> Exploring the campuses and facilities of some of Limerick's third level institutions.

Limerick Museum The Old Franciscan Friary, **Henry Street** 061 557740 www.limerick.ie/limerick-museum

Embracing Limerick's exciting past never gets old, and the municipal museum offers a unique collection that tells the 9,500 year old history of Limerick and its people in its full glory. Located in the Old Franciscan Friary on Henry Street, Limerick Museum is less than a five minute walk from the Tourist Office. Dedicated to bringing the history of Limerick to life, the museum has over 60,000 interesting objects in its care, spanning centuries of local

and regional history. Displays include archaeological artefacts such as Stone Age axes and medieval coins, as well as military memorabilia including 1916 Rising veterans' medals and the civic sword of Queen Elizabeth I. Mementos from Limerick's commercial pursuits include a Spillane's 'Garryowen' tobacco tin, a printer's block and an impressive collection of Limerick silver and lace. As a huge sporting city, sports collectables feature prominently and include medals, tickets and match programmes including those from

New Zealand All Blacks in 1978. Some of the more unusual items worth seeking out include Ireton's Cat,

Munster's historic win against the

The Best Of Ire

a mummified cat found on Nicholas Street in the 1890's; a fragment of the largest meteorite ever to fall in the British Isles in 1813; and two World War II gas masks, that fortunately never had to be used. Many personal collections have been bequeathed to the museum, adding genuine local touches.

Established in 1907, Limerick Museum is the oldest local authority museum in the state. The museum's extensive online catalogue is well worth a look. Open: weekdays 10am-5pm (excluding public holidays). Admission is free

Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum Aras Ide, Main St, Ballynacragga

North, Foynes, Co. Limerick 069 65416 www.flyingboatmuseum.com

The story of the role played by Foynes in the establishment of passenger flights across the Atlantic is excitingly captured in the Museum. The famous flying boats were frequent visitors, carrying a diverse range of people from celebrities to refugees. The award winning Flying Boat Museum recalls this era with a comprehensive range of exhibitions and memorabilia.

Visit the world's only Flying Boat Museum, and step aboard the world's only full size replica of a Boeing B314 Flying Boat.

The Boeing 314 has become the "quintessential" Pan Am Clipper flying boat - the one people think of when they recall the era during which Foynes flourished as the hub of aviation activity between North America and Europe during World War II. Alongside this the museum has an array of different exhibitions

The People's Museum of Limerick

Limerick Civic Trust, 2 Pery Square 083 3994186 peoplesmuseumlimerickcivictrust.ie

The People's Museum of Limerick is home to a number of diverse historical collections.

There are objects and artefacts that tell the story of Limerick's history, from rugby memorabilia to original Georgian-era furniture. The Museum of Childhood is also housed here, with dozens of items on display which will transport you back to your youth.

The Carroll military collection is located in the basement of the building, and is a great resource for learning about Limerick's famous military tradition. There is also a dazzling array of art on display, which range from historical portraits to modern paintings.

However, the People's Museum's collection is not the only feature of interest. The building itself is

vou can explore. Like challenging vourself to fly the B314 in our realistic flight simulators. They provide an illuminating experience of what it was like to pilot a flying boat. Or you can watch the award-

winning film "Atlantic Conquest," compiled from original footage. Enter the 3D holographic show recreating the night in 1943 when Chef Joe Sheridan invented Irish coffee in Foynes for weary passengers returning to the airport restaurant after bad weather forced their New York-bound flight to turn back. Explore the life and legacy of

legendary Irish-American actress Maureen O'Hara. The exhibit is dedicated to this Hollywood icon, who starred in several classic films from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Her husband, famed aviator Charles Blair, flew flying boats into Foynes from 1942 to 1945. And many more exciting attractions within Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum.

an amazing example of Georgian architecture. No. 2 Pery Square was built in 1838 by the Pery Square Tontine Company, and is part of the last Georgian terrace development to be built in Limerick. The restored Georgian Town House Garden is one of the few in Ireland that is publicly accessible. Step back through time by walking through five floors of Limerick history, and see the past come to life.

The People's Museum of Limerick is hosting a number of temporary art exhibitions throughout 2023, and is bound to have something for everyone. Tours can be provided upon request, while walking tours of the surrounding area of the People's Museum are available via booking on our website. Entrance Fee €5

The Wild Geese Museum on King's Island is a dramatic and informative exploration of the story of the soldiers and battles surrounding Patrick Sarsfield and the Wild Geese. The Museum explores the history

of Limerick's famous sieges, as well



WWW.FLYING BOAT MUSEUM.

Early 2023 was an exciting time for the Museum as it will unveil its brand new expansion that will offer viewers a new and improved aviation Museum. Visitors will be able to experience a 100-seater cinema, a reimagined Maureen O'Hara exhibition, new Irish Coffee Lounge and technologies such as child-friendly and adult flight simulators which will be top of the range and a thoroughly immersive experience.

Opened Tue to Sun from 10am to 5pm (last admission 4pm).Further information visit: www.flyingboatmuseum.com Or Contact: 069 65416

as examines some of the major flashpoints in Ireland's military history. The exhibition features many interesting artefacts and objects, as well as many smaller interesting art pieces that are influenced by the stories of the Wild Geese. This exhibition is also one of the only exhibitions in Limerick which is published in three languages; English, Irish. and French.

The Wild Geese Museum is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from 10 am - 4 pm. Entrance Fee €3





Irish artists such as Paul Henry,

Jack B Yeats, Sean Keating, Charles

Lamb. Letita Hamilton. Grace Henry.

Sarah Purser, Walter Verling, Donald

more. The gallery is also home to the

National Collection of Contemporary

Throughout the year, the gallery

Drawing and the Michael O'Connor

International Poster Collection.

hosts works from national and

international artists, featuring

an eclectic mix of classic and

every visit unique!

contemporary visual arts, making

In the heart of Georgian Limerick,

Limerick City Gallery of Art is based in

the historic Carnegie Building, which

was originally built in 1906. Although

extensive renovations, it has retained

some charming features, including

its sash windows and the original

wooden floor. It now houses 650

square metres of exhibition space

across two storeys, in an interesting

After an amble around the gallery,

the airy café overlooking the verdant

watch the world go by with a coffee

People's Park, is an ideal place to

and a treat!

hybrid of old and new architecture.

the gallery has since undergone

Teskey, John Shinnors and many

Limerick City Gallery of Art Carnegie Building, Pery Square 061 310633 www.gallery.limerick.ie

Opening hours: Mon - Wed/Fri & Sat 10am - 5.30pm Thu 10am - 8pm Sun 12pm - 5.30pm Closed on public holidays Admission: Free

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 Limerick City Gallery of Art.

Limerick City Gallery of Art is one the longest established and leading contemporary public art galleries in Ireland, and is among Limerick's most celebrated cultural resources.

The gallery's permanent collection, which began in 1936, features drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography and contemporary media artworks ranging from the18th to 21st century. The collection is exhibited on a rotation basis throughout the year, and includes works from famous

32 I



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 on 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) on 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.

The People's Museum of Limerick at No.2 Pery Square, aims to reflect the diverse lives of the people, buildings, and streets of the city. They showcase a collection of items in the care of Limerick Civic Trust, as well as visiting artefacts.

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 TUS, 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.

Formenable Formess

King John's Castle King's Island

061 370501 www.kingjohnscastle.ie

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 timetravel; 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 defences. 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 interpretative centre. It has everything from touch screen technology, 3D models, to computer-generated imagery, animations and projections. There is a spectacular, panoramic

I here is a spectacular, panoramic 360 degree view from the tallest

turret where you can absorb the rooftop of Limerick City. In peak season, the castle courtyard bustles with activities as costumed characters interact with visitors. One

can explore the Siege shelter, the mason and the mint or try your luck at the medieval courtyard games.

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.

The castle towers provide a unique feeling experience of the daily operation of a military castle. Visitors can enjoy a selection of barista coffees, sweet treats and hot food at the Siege café and afterwards browse the gift store, which stocks a wide range of quality gifts and souvenirs. Open 7 days per week, all

year round. Reservations are not



necessary, with the exception of large group bookings, which can be made by emailing:

reservations@kingiohnscastle.ie

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



The Best Of Ireland Series

University Concert Hall Limerick

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

University Concert Hall (UCH) is a **1,038 seat multi-purpose entertainment venue** located on the beautiful riverside **University of Limerick** campus. Celebrating its 3oth anniversary in 2023, UCH is a leading concert hall, offering a diverse and busy programme in the mid-west region.

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

From comedy to classical, to traditional music to singer songwriters, to opera and pop and our famous annual pantomime (panto). The venue has something for everyone, adding breadth and depth to the cultural life of the region.

UCH attracts some of the biggest names from comedy -

Mario Rosenstock. Dylan Moran. Neil Delamere, Sarah Millican - to the world of music Nathan Carter. Sharon Shannon, The High Kings, Imelda May, Mike Denver, Elaine Paige, Daniel O'Donnell, Luke Jackman, Tara Erraught plus legendary Irish musician Christy Moore. The annual Irish Chamber Orchestra season and regular performances by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra are a staple of the venue's annual itinerary. UCH has also hosted many TV and Radio Broadcasts including Gradam Ceoil, TG4 Awards, The Late Late Show, RTÉ and Eurosong.

At Christmas, UCH brings a bit of magic to Limerick with the annual panto. People of all ages, from every corner of the country come to UCH for one of the best pantos in the country, featuring local and national celebrities. UCH supports Irish artists through various initiatives including the annual Rising Stars concert. The UCH Rising Stars brings young Irish classical artists to the UCH stage, showcasing their considerable talents. UCH also works with the wider community of Limerick to spark or grow their interest in the arts through workshops and concerts.

Our facilities have been extensively refurbished – so we invite you to relax in our luxurious seating area and enjoy the sleek new décor of our atrium

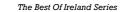


Our bar is open an hour before each show. Choose from draft beers, premium spirits, and delicious wines. And lounge in our stylish seating area or browse our watercolour art collection before the show. **Check out our full listings and book tickets: uch.ie** Keep in touch: Facebook (@universityconcerthall), Twitter (@uchlimerick) or Instagram (@uchlimerick)

& Wonderful setting for music and artists of all kinds, very comfortable and reasonable prices



University Concert Hall



Lime Tree Theatre Mary Immaculate College,

Courtbrack Avenue

Belltable 69 O'Connell Street Box Office: 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 also manages 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

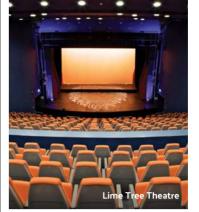
International Rugby Experience

40 O'Connell Street, Limerick internationalrugbyexperience. com 061 544800

The International Rugby Experience, now open on Limerick's O'Connell Street, is a world class, interactive celebration of what it takes to become a Legend!

Visitors to the Experience move through six, awe-inspiring stages that follow the game from a community, grass roots level up to the players, clubs and nations that have reached legendary status. Rooted in World Rugby's values of Passion, Discipline, Integrity, Solidarity and Respect, they will discover the real people behind the game, as well as how it has impacted politics, transformed communities and improved lives

Fun, interactive trials and exciting, immersive theatre spaces make it the perfect destination for all ages Stunning 360 degree views of Limerick city centre ensure that the sixth floor Legends Gallery



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

is a jaw-dropping end to this unique, interactive, experience.

The International Rugby Experience gift store features everything from locally produced contemporary ceramics, customised collections of rugby inspired prints and unique artwork of local landmarks, to bespoke branded clothing and much more. The light filled café offers a selection of sweet and savoury treats, quality coffee and a delightful setting overlooking the city from the first floor.

Open 7 days a week from 9.30 am – 6:00 pm. Tickets €15 (Adults) €10 (Under 18s) from internationalrugbyexperience.com





pre-theatre dinner deals with a number of nearby eateries.

Belltable Box Office opening times are **Monday-Saturday** at **69 O'Connell Street** from **12-5.30pm**. Box Office is also opened 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**

66 Hear the Stories, Feel the Passion, Test your Skills



The Best Of Ireland Series



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. 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 player– twin 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. The Medieval Quarter features 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, is a sculpture of a group of 'Wild Geese' set amid a fountain pool. On George's

The Best Of Ireland Series



Quay, you'll find 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).

Other statues of note, include the Anthony Foley memorial on Clancy Strand, Terry Wogan sculpture Harvey's Quay and the new wooden carving of King Dónal Mór O'Brien, at St. Mary's Cathedral by chainsaw sculptor Will Fogarty.

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).

Also in county Limerick is Glórach, Abbeyfeale (087 1383940) www.facebook.com/ GlorachTheatreAbbeyfeale.

Dance Limerick is based in a beautifully refurbished former church in the city's John's Square - hosting dance and other artistic events (061-400994; www.dancelimerick.ie).

The Millennium Theatre in Technological University of the Shannon (061-293431; 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).

Arts & Culture - Limerick Guide

Colors has played host to hundreds of leading music, comedy and theatrical artists

Limerick Writers' Centre (www. limerickwriterscentre.com) runs regular literary events. A new addition to Limerick's arts scene is the Limerick Theatre and Performance Hub AKA 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 have become more popular, so nontypical 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

evervone.



The Hunt Museum Rutland Street 061 312833 www.huntmuseum.com

Located in the former Customs House, the finest example of 18 th Century Palladian Architecture in Limerick, and overlooking the River Shannon, the Hunt Collection represents over 2,000 original works of Art and Antiquity of national and global importance.

Come and explore the personal collection of John and Gertrude Hunt who donated the pieces to the people of Ireland. Now beautifully displayed in this Grand Georgian Museum, marvel at the wonderful, eclectic mix of pieces that were selected based on the quality of design, craftsmanship, and artistic merit. Learn the history of the Hunt Family and hear stories of how they chose the individual pieces which range from the Stone Age right up to the Modern Day. Included in the ticket price are guided tours with our passionate, local guides. Trails and activity sheets for children are available at reception.



Make your way through the collection, discovering along the way artefacts from the ancient civilisations of Greece, Rome, Egypt, and Early Ireland. There are dedicated displays featuring Bronze Age shields, Neolithic flints, jewellery including the Mary, Queen of Scots Cross, and a wide range of 18th and 19th-century decorative arts with fine examples of silver, glass, and ceramics.

66 Over 2,000 original works of Art and Antiquity of national and global importance

Highlights from the collection include a Roman Dodecahedron, one of the '30 Pieces of Silver' reputedly paid to Judas for the betrayal of Jesus Christ, one of the largest displays of medieval religious works of art in Europe, and an eminent fine art collection featuring works by the likes of Pablo Picasso, Auguste Renoir, Paul Henry, and Jack B. Yeats.

Enjoy a stroll down the original Georgian staircase, and explore the Cabinets of Curiosity. Open the drawers and see what hidden gems you may discover. There is something for everyone with everything from pottery to chalices, sculptures to 14th-century tapestries, brooches to spears, on display. Learn more through the use of our interactive, touch-screen tables. Before you leave, visit the museum gift shop, offering a fabulous range of locally sourced and environmentally

The Best Of Ireland Series

friendly goods. A few steps down from the gift shop is the Hunt Café where visitors can enjoy fresh, homemade snacks and lunches. From there, explore the Hunt Museum in a Garden featuring sculptures of 'escaped objects' from the museum that are dotted around the beautiful garden on the banks of the River Shannon. Check the website for more information on the collection

information on the collection and for updates about temporary exhibitions and events.

General Admission: Adult: €10 Concessions (Students, Over 65s, Unemployed): €7.50 Child (U18): Free

Opening times Mondays: Closed Tuesday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm Sunday: 11am to 5pm

For public safety we have to manage the number of visitors who are in the museum. Please book your tickets and time slot online so you don't have to wait.



Dodecahedron 1st to 4th century





ne of the biggest and most popular festivals in Limerick, Riverfest is a four day extravaganza which regularly draws crowds in excess of 100,000 people. Taking place during the May bank holiday, Riverfest kicks off the summer with exciting events such as the Great Limerick Run, Fashion Friday, and the establishment of the "Riverfestival Village" at Arthur's Quay Park. With a fabulous array of food stalls, arts, crafts, unique attractions and entertainment, Riverfest is definitely one of the highlights of the year. A fun weekend for all the family, the festival is perfectly capped off by the biggest fireworks display in the country!

A four day extravaganza which regularly draws crowds in excess of 100,000 people



Riverfest makes a Splash!

Riyon

limenic









The Best Of Ireland Series



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

WHAT NEXT Dance Festival 2023 returns to its home at Dance Limerick, John's Square, bringing together artists, arts students and audiences and showcasing Limerick as a vibrant and world class, centre of excellence for dance, to national and international audiences.

Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien 2023. The Limerick

Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien has a 38-year history and legacy of working with emerging and established writers and readers to create new audiences for literature with an international reach. The Festival has become a highlight in the cultural calendar of the region.

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 third annual Limerick Early Music Festival (LEMF) is titled WOODS SO WILD and takes place over 3 days, 24th to 26th March 2023. It brings together a diverse pool of local, national and international musicians and dancers for an exciting weekend of solo and collaborative performances and which engages the public through 7 concerts, a dance workshop and a vibrant Festival Hub. The 2023 festival celebrates the sound-world of plucked instruments and voices from different cultures, styles and time periods from Medieval to Contemporary.

The Fresh Film Festival screens the work of young filmmakers and holds workshops. www.freshfilmfestival.net

Catalyst International Film

Festival focuses exclusively on films and filmmakers addressing under-representation on screen and behind the camera in specific ways. An awareness of EDI issues (gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, disability and LGBTQ) and a commitment to creating change.

APRIL

The Fleadh by the Feale Traditional Irish Music Festival takes place in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. Now in its 29th year the Friday night will start with a busking competition and gig rig entertainment. Join us for a weekend of workshops, youth sessions, pub trails, bones workshops/ competitions and a ceili. The Limerick Writers Festival, showcases the best from the world of poetry, including local, national and international readers. Inaugurated in 2013, it has now grown into a nationally recognised, all-poetry festival for lovers of poetry, and a world-class, lifeenriching series of events for participants and audiences alike.

The new **Limerick Opera Festival** which was launched in 2022 and aims to bring opera to all. Join us for operatic performance, recitals and workshops. We are delighted to collaborate with organisations and schools in Limerick in bringing opera to a new audience.

MAY

The summer festival season kicks off on the May bank holiday with a number of events. Arguably the biggest of these 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 barbecues, fireworks, markets, street performances and much more. (www. limerick.ie/riverfest)

Regeneron Great Limerick Run (held at the end of the bank holiday weekend) attracts 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



JUNE

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

Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2023, a festival of Irish Traditional Music, Song, Dance, Gaeilge and Culture. An opportunity for 4 different age groups to participate in various music, song, dance, storytelling and Comhrá Gaeilge events.

Welcome to the Neighbourhood

2023 - The annual festival of contemporary art in Askeaton, in June 2023. International and Irish artists will reside in the town, activating and presenting new cultural projects that connect with the unique history and everyday life of Askeaton.

The Limerick Garden Festival at Limerick Milk Market features an exciting plant, garden and food market with over 50 traders from all over Ireland, all-day garden expert talks and many opportunities for gardeners, their families and friends to enjoy, engage and experience all things gardening.

www.limerickgardenfestival.com





Dromcollogher Carnival- 10 Day Street

Carnival featuring indoor and outdoor

entertainments to suit the broadest

range of ages for Dromcollogher and

surrounding areas of West Limerick.

Ireland's largest tag rugby festival - the

Pig 'n' Porter Festival - attracts teams

from all over Ireland and the world for

Limerick turns rainbow coloured

Festival. The lively and positive

during the Limerick LGBTQ Pride

atmosphere celebrates Limerick's

diverse culture. The programme

includes a pride parade and the

Limerick as well as other artistic and

The annual Limerick Bastille Day

the Flight of the Wild Geese and

Wild Geese Festival. commemorates

celebrates the longstanding friendship

between Ireland and France, now our

A number of events will take place

Week (12 – 20 August). This year's

offer visitors a unique opportunity

theme is "sustainable heritage

and biodiversity" and is sure to

to learn about and appreciate

local history and heritage.

across Limerick for National Heritage

crowning of Mr and Mrs Gay

information events.

www.limerickpride.ie

closest EU neighbour.

AUGUST

cultural and sporting events and

JULY

fun and sport.

www.pignporter.com



The **Cappamore Show** Limerick's largest family and agricultural festival, the Limerick Show returns to Limerick Racecourse. Up to 15,000 visitors, 1000 competitors and 150 trade exhibitors will descend on the racecourse to experience a unique event!

SEPTEMBER

The **40th EVA International** is Ireland's largest visual arts event, presenting the work of over 40 Irish and International artists; Taking place across multiple venues in Limerick city, audiences will be treated to free exhibitions, live events, and educational programmes; The programme will feature an exhibition curated by high-profile curator Sebastian Cichocki and partnerships with national and international organisations, including IMMA Dublin;

Music by the Maigue 2023 in Croom Town Park offering a mix of music for families to enjoy from Brass bands to soloists in this open Community event with on-street entertainment for all to enjoy.

The **Limerick Jazz Festival** attracts the best Irish and international contemporary jazz artists in September. www.limerickjazzfestival.com

16th **Polish Arts Festival**, **PAF** in association with Lime Tree Theatre/ Belltable, The Hunt Museum and

Feativals & Events - Limerick Guide



Lomerick City Gallery of Art,LCGA. Bringing a four day festival of visual art, music, film, theatre, performances, PAF KIDS Day and audio-stories for children.

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. www.culturenight.ie/limerick

OCTOBER

The Éigse Michael Hartnett Poetry, Arts & Literary Festival this October in Newcastle West in Co. Limerick Honouring the wellknown poet. It includes lectures, poetry readings and more. www.eigsemichaelhartnettie

Ballyhoura Walking Festival

2023. Established as Ireland's first walking festival and it will be in its 27th year in 2023. The festival provides an opportunity to explore some of Ballyhoura's stunning countryside, heritage and folklore in the company of local guides.

The annual **Bualadh Bos Children's Festival**, taking place at Lime Tree Theatre I Belltable in mid- October is the perfect opportunity for children to be creative in a fun way, it allows them to use their imagination sparked by superb theatre, dance, music, creative workshops and lots more. www.limetreetheatre.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. There are a variety events including film screenings. www.richardharrisfilmfestival.com

Lumen Street Theatre bring 'Samhain', Limerick's Halloween Festival, back to Limerick's Medieval Quarter, celebrating, re-imagining and retelling local Halloween stories through history, folklore and traditions. The festival will celebrate local folklore and traditions through talks and workshops, and fun educational events for children that will include spooky storytelling, all set within this ancient part of the city. facebook.com/ SamhainLimericksHalloweenFestival

Sammanicimenceshanoweenresuv

Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest - The Halloween Fright-fest will take place over the October Bank-holiday weekend. There will be classes for the children of the area. These will include Stone Painting, Halloween Craft Classes. There will be a Pumpkin Carving competition. The highlight of the weekend will be the Scary Trail which is located on the bank of the River Shannon. There are various sections the attendees pass through with a variety of scares in each section.

NOVEMBER

Light Moves Festival: Spiral in the City 2023 - Four concerts across city spaces in November 2023 showing the work of three artists with three music/ sound artists performing improvised scores

DECEMBER

Christmas in Limerick - 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 is a highlight of the festive celebrations in Limerick. This fourday racing festival in December, 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. www.limerickraces.ie

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.



Parnell Plaza Entertainment Venue 41, 42, 43, 46 Parnell Street, Limerick V94 X293

Parnell Plaza Entertainment Venue and Charlie St Georges pub in the city centre are easy find. Located opposite the important Limerick City Gateway that is Colbert Bus and Train Terminus at Parnell Street.

Charlie St Georges Pub is a pub with a lot of character. It surely has, as famous and sometimes infamous characters continue to visit. It is well worth seeing the dedication section in the pub to one of Limerick's famous son's Richard Harris. It is probably the most accessible dedicated display available to the public of the life of this famous thespian. Russell Crowe and many more are regular visitors, so it's anyones quess as to what characters you could brush shoulders with when you go for a nice pint to Charlie St Georges Pub. A professional and friendly bar team together with chatty customers and a great pint is the experience to be expected here. Charlies has all the old style character of a real Irish pub but you should

seek out the super pub courtyard. When you find it you can chill out there with a drink and a tasty pizza. Heated seats should add to your comfort that is if needed for those chillier moments. It must be pointed out that the courtyard TV's have the most impressive video quality for viewing live sports. Open seven day's.

66 It is well worth seeing the dedication section in the pub to one of Limerick's famous son's Richard Harris

People who enjoy playing bingo say they love **Pery's Bingo**. Pery's team are known to be very friendly and helpful. Its noticeable that the team at Pery's take special pride in guiding and helping newcomers. A visit to Pery's is a great idea for a fun night out with a difference and there is a chance to win lots of prizes to top off your evening. **Pery's Bingo Online** studio

Pery's Bingo Online studio broadcasts from this hub every week. So if you can't make a visit and want to play at home just click on www.perysbingo.ie Pery's Bingo venue session times are advertised in the venue and on Facebook.

Whether you are just passing through or looking for an entertaining casino time then **Timeout Casino** is the number one spot. Why? Well this venue prides itself on providing the latest games with the most payouts. Because it is a purpose built casino you will experience that atmosphere of a 'real casino'. The venue is fully certified airconditioned with mobility access facilities. Open all hours

The JB Limerick Rugby Expo is a special eclectic collection of rugby memorabilia assembled over many years by the late Johnny Brennan with help from his rugby loving friends. This collection is on display at Parnell Plaza Entertainment Venue. Some of the collection is on loan to and available to view in a dedicated section at Limerick Peoples Museum, Pery's Square, Limerick. Some dedicated rugby fans boast for fun that they have visited not one but the four Limerick rugby expo experiences! Open most days by appointment.

The Best Of Ireland Series



A Night at the Dogs Limerick Greyhound Stadium Greenpark, Dock Road Bookings: 061 448080 www.limerickgreyhoundstadium.ie

For an action packed night out in Limerick, look no further than Limerick Greyhound Stadium. Racing every Thursday and Saturdy night, just minutes from Limerick City on the Dock Road – perfect if you're travelling from the City Centre or further afield.

Enjoy a meal in the glass-fronted stadium restaurant which offers panoramic views of the racing action outside and you'll also enjoy bar and tote service direct to your table.

66 For an action packed night out in Limerick, look no further

The Best Of Ireland Series

For a more casual night out there's group offers available or you can simply pay admission on



e glass-fronted arrival and enjoy the fast-food and bar facilities on offer with indoor and outdoor viewing areas to cheer home your winner. Prices start from just €10 for

adult admission so it's perfect for enjoying an evening activity in Limerick on a budget! For restaurant and group offers visit www.LimerickGreyhoundStadium. ie where you can book online quickly and easily.



There is oodles to see and experience in Limerick so whatever your interest, you'll never be short of something to do.

Get Active in Limerick

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.



Paddywagon Tours

Unit 13 Arthurs Quay Shopping Centre, Patrick St, Limerick 061 481652 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).

The Best Of Ireland Series



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

coastline in Clare. Loop Head is one of

the most remote and wonderful places

take you to numerous scenic locations

in Ireland. The Loop Head Drive will

as well as to cliff angling spots. The

County of Limerick is a place of rural

charm and great beauty, with a gently

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 Kerry, or the equally majestic Atlantic

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.

undulating landscape that varies from

the mountains of Ballyhoura in the

Paddywagon also caters for private hire so you can design your own tour for groups and special occasions. Each Paddywagon comes armed with free Wi-Fi on board so sharing all your travel snaps with your friends is a breeze.

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

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

EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED

Limerick Greenwav

LIMERICKGREENWAY.IE () (

Limerick Greenway, Embrace the unexpected

www.limerickgreenway.ie www.limerick.ie/greenway

Built along the former Limerick to Tralee railway line, Limerick Greenway weaves through 40km of West Limerick's traditional agricultural landscape, linking the major towns of Rathkeale. Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. Many features of the railway are still intact, including the impressive 115 metre Barnagh Tunnel, Ferguson's cast-iron Viaduct, both of which are restored relics of 19th Century railway infrastructure. Beautifully restored station houses at Barnagh and Ardagh are also on view along the route.

Limerick Greenway surface was designed with mobility in mind and is safe and suitable for all ages and abilities. You can start the full route at the trailheads at Rathkeale or Abbeyfeale, near the Limerick-Kerry border, or join at one of the many entry points located at key stops along the Greenway at Ardagh, Newcastle West, Barnagh and Templeglantine.

Along the way, you will experience the open countryside of West Limerick with tree lined hedgerows and witness nature on all parts of your journey. A favourite spot is Tullig Wood, which gives you an opportunity to enjoy the calming effects of this

native forest. As you pass through many towns and villages along the way, there is plenty to see and do with local hotels to choose from and boutiques, parks, shops, cafès and restaurants to visit. Take your time to visit ancient castles and abbeys and meet the people that give Limerick its uniqueness and charm.

Limerick Greenway offers an authentic experience of rural Ireland for wheelchair users, cyclists, runners and walkers. However, it is also a vital piece of commuting infrastructure, providing a safe route between several West Limerick towns, forming part of the county's rapidly expanding cycle infrastructure, improving wellbeing and tackling climate change.

The Best Of Ireland Series

66 Explore something new and embrace the unexpected!

Limerick Greenway is a fantastic destination for a day trip, a place to explore over a couple of days, or as base to explore the county and beyond. Make Limerick Greenway your next choice for a holiday, explore something new and embrace the unexpected! For more information, including details on bike hire, visit limerickgreenway.ie



for excellent facilities and resounding support

Lee Reeves Pic: Jake Jovce

Limerick A Passion for Sport

From the Red Army, to the Green and White of Limerick **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. University of Limerick is Ireland's Sporting Campus, hosting national and interntional events and teams.

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 level. Cricket, boxing, basketball, swimming, 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 senior hurling team are the current All-Ireland champions, going for a historic four-in-arow in 2023. They are the new idols of the next generation of Limerick sport stars. Cian Lynch,

Kyle Hayes, Gearoid Hegarty and Sean Finn are just some of the names people are talking about.

Their supporters turn out in their thousands for home games in the TUS Gaelic Grounds during GAA season. TUS Gaelic Grounds is the largest capacity stadium in the city with space for almost 50,000 people.

Both the men's and ladies' teams have done their county proud many times. In 2018, the Limerick Ladies Football Team won the All-Ireland Ladies Junior Football Championship in Croke Park and that same year the Limerick Senior Hurling Team won the All-Ireland Championship their first since 1973, and a moment of great pride to the county.

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 school's 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. Junior soccer holds a special place in the hearts of Limerick people. Clubs such as Fairview Rangers and Pike Rovers have reached the pinnacle on a regular basis nationally.

Treaty United are Limerick's senior club and play their home games in the surrounds of the Markets Field.

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 in 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. We are looking forward to another JP McManus Pro-Am this July, and, of course, the Ryder Cup in Adare Manor in 2027.

66 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 the first Irishman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Rob Mortell was the voungest 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. Para swimmer Róisín Ní Riain is growing and gaining as a competitor since her Paralympic debut in Tokyo, Conor Niland played at Wimbledon. Just a few of Limerick's other sports personalities include many rugby stars such as 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 voung people participating in sports regularly, its heritage will live on for a long while yet.





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 - Munster is famous for its fervent supporters as well as its winning ways.

66 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 Best Of Ireland Series

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, Ardscoil Rís and Castletroy College 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, has written two bestselling books on Munster Rugby and was also the ghost-writer on Paul O'Connell's autobiography, 'The Battle'.



Family

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 50m 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 25m swimming pool and two kids' pools. UL Arena and Grove Island have gyms, while UL has a multitude of other sporting facilities such as running tracks, tennis courts and sports fields.

If you want to play at being Rory McIroy, try your hand at Monaleen Pitch & Putt (087 6954839); Adare Pitch & Putt (087 6963420); Bruff Pitch & Putt (061 382363) or Glenside Pitch & Putt, Murroe (061 386269).

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. 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. **Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre** (061 423994) and **Kids Town** (061 348111).

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

In good weather, a trip to **Buttercup** Farm (061 397556). You can get up close with a whole host of animals, from goats to llamas and from sheep to owl 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. For older kids and teens, **Funworld** (061 325088) offers bowling, pool tables and arcade games.

The Best Of Ireland Series

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

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.

Download the Adventure Walks app to unleash treasure hunt fun in Limerick's parks! Launched by Limerick Sports Partnership in conjunction with Healthy Limerick, the app is a fun way to explore the great outdoors across 12 locations, while playing a treasure hunt game. For more ideas on family activities, this guide has lots of

activities, this guide has lots of information features in this section and others. For even more suggestions.

For even more suggestion see www.limerick.ie.

Full of Pride of Place

Parks and Playgrounds









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.

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



Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails

Walking & Cycling in Limerick

Walking and cycling are two of the best ways to get fit and explore the great outdoors. Limerick has plenty of tracks and trails to choose from, whether you want to experience the city's riverside setting and edgy urban street art, or embrace the county's forest parks, mountains and spectacular countryside.

Walk The **Three Bridges** Distance: 3.6 km (looped)

Start/End: Arthur's Quay Park

As the name suggests, this route takes in Limerick's three bridges. Thomond Bridge, Sarsfield Bridge and Shannon Bridge, and is an excellent way to get a sense of the city. The looped walk follows a stunning route by the banks of the River Shannon, through the historic Medieval Quarter and along the scenic riverside boardwalks. Take in some tourist highlights along the way including the Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, Treaty

City Brewery, King John's Castle and the Treaty Stone. Keep an eye out for some of Limerick's most celebrated street art - Sionna the river goddess on Bridge Street, and renowned actress Constance Smith and The Cranberries' lead singer Dolores O'Riordan on Nicholas Street. Make sure to leave time to relax at one of the quirky cafés, riverside pubs or restaurants along the way! www.Limerick.ie

City Centre Slí na Sláinte

Distance: 3.8 km (looped) Start/End: O'Connell Street/ **Bedford Row junction**

Slí na Sláinte, meaning 'path to health', is an Irish Heart Foundation walking route suitable for all ages and abilities. This looped walk is signposted at 1km intervals and is best toured during daylight hours.

Travel through the heart of the city centre along O'Connell Street. Glentworth Street and onto Pery Square - Limerick's Georgian Quarter,

The Best Of Ireland Series

66 Experience the city's riverside setting and edgy urban street art. or embrace the county's forest parks, mountains and spectacular countryside.

and home to the People's Park, Limerick City Gallery of Art and The People's Museum of Limerick. Continue along Barrington Street, O'Connell Avenue and New Street before returning to the city centre along the South Circular Road. Keep an eye out for South's Pub, which featured in Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize winning book Angela's Ashes. A visit to the Limerick Museum in the Old Franciscan Friary on Henry Street is a lovely way to end the walk. Visit www.irishheart.ie or www.Limerick.ie for other Slí na Sláinte routes in Limerick

Limerick Greenway Distance: 39 km

Start: Rathkeale End: Abbevfeale

Limerick's scenic countryside is waiting to be explored along this off-road walking and cycling route. Starting in the county town of

Rathkeale, 30km from Limerick City, Limerick greenway continues southwest to Abbeyfeale and then on to the Kerry border. Set along the former Limerick/

Tralee train line, Limerick greenway has some interesting railway features including the 100m long Barnagh Tunnel and Ferguson's Viaduct, which carried its first train in 1880.

This scenic trail weaves its way through tranguil woods and farmland, along riverbanks and hills and passes historic castle ruins, all the while offering wonderful views of the lush Limerick countryside.

Along the way, there are plenty of seating areas to rest the legs and embrace the stunning local scenery and panoramic views. Barnagh Hub is a great starting point.

*Other highlights and access points include Ardagh, Newcastle West and Templeglantine. www.limerickgreenway.ie

Broadford **To Ashford** Walking Trails

Nestled into the Mullaghareirk mountain range, the Broadford to Ashford walking trails offer the most picturesque views across County Limerick. Enjoy the majestic landscape of rolling hills, open farmland and forestry along eight routes of varying distance and difficulty. www.walkbroadfordashford.com/trail

Walkers are spoilt for choice with Limerick's gently undulating countryside from the majestic Ballyhoura Mountains in the Golden Vale to the leafy forest paths of Curraghchase; from sweeping coastal vistas along the Shannon Estuary Way to the rush of clear waters at Clare Glens. These were just some of the hidden gems just waiting to be

explored! Go to Limerick.ie/walking to download our handy guide as an excellent companion for those who are looking to get outside and about to walk or run around Limerick.

Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails

Have you got the edge to take on forest road climbs, elevated boardwalks, steep descents, tight twists and technical turns? As the largest trail network of its kind in Ireland, Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails will challenge even the biggest adrenaline junkies! Starting and finishing at a trail head near the east Limerick village of Ardpatrick, the trails range from the moderate 6km Greenwood Loop to the demanding Castlepook Loop, over 50km in length. There is a full range of visitor services available including car parking, bike wash, changing facilities, café and picnic area. www.visitballvhoura.com/ mountain-biking/

Bike Share

The Limerick TFI Bikes Scheme is an ideal way to explore the city. This self-service rental scheme has 215 bicycles strategically located at 23 bike terminals across the city. Hire options include a three-day pass or annual subscription (a security deposit is required). www.bikeshare.ie

There are plenty of cycling and walking clubs throughout the city and county, the perfect way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts and discover new routes. Check out your local club on Limerick.ie.





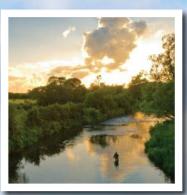




Embrace the Great Outdoors







\$6 The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland's spectacular coastal driving route

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 paddle-boarding, 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 fast-paced mountain biking, the Ballyhoura area has over 90km 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. Equestrian lovers can enjoy the spectacular scenery of Limerick's forest trails and mountain ranges with horse riding options available at Ballyhoura Horse Trekking, Kilfinane (086-8094648). Boskill Equestrian Centre, Caherconlish (085-7673468), Clonshire Equestrian Centre, Adare

The Best Of Ireland S

(061-396770) and Hillcrest Equestrian Centre, Galbally 062 6237915 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, as well as course and game fishing. Celtic Angling (069-68202) offers guided angling tours around counties 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 multiaccess 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.

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. As a Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way, Limerick is an ideal and central base from which you can explore the coastal counties. The Wild Atlantic Way is illustrated by signs bearing a symbol with a blue background and a white representation of waves.

K Visitors can enjoy the mighty River Shannon 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.

As a Gateway City to the Wild Atlantic Way 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 such as swimming and surfing. For more information see

www.limerick.ie and www.wildatlanticway.com.



isitors 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?

The Shannon Estuary is a spectacular and unspoilt estuary located just off the Wild Atlantic Way. The area of remarkable natural beauty is where Ireland's longest river - the mighty Shannon - flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Along the Shannon Estuary Way Drive, you will find delightful towns, pretty villages and world famous shore fishing sites. Commence in Limerick City and drive the N69 to Tarbert. Take the ferry in Tarbert for a short journey to Killimer in County Clare. Continue to Ennis and back into Limerick City to complete the looped drive.

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.

trip to Murroe Village and the Clare Glens Walk. The road is the R506.

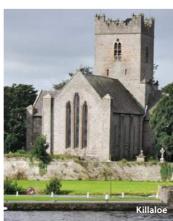


Clare Glens: You could take a short

This looped walk through lush forest alongside the clear rushing waterfalls of the river has some stunning natural scenery.

Golden Vale Drive: Starting in Kilmallock, the Golden Vale Drive will take you from level pasturelands to the foot of the highest inland mountain - Galtymore (3,015ft). You will pass from picturesque countryside, through the medieval town of Kilmallock, and around Lough Gur, famous for its many archaeological sites. The signposted driving route weaves through the villages and towns of Kilmallock, Bruree, Bruff, Croom, Lough Gur, Ballyneety, Pallasgreen, Emly, Galbally, Kilfinane and Ballylanders. (Self-guided CDs available at Kilfinane Tourist Office). For more information on drives in the

vicinity, see www.shannonregiontrails.ie.



Whether it's a passion for fashion or longing for leisure... 'shop 'til you drop' and experience the best of Limerick.

Shopping Heaven

New Retail Vigour

As 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 Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre in the city's heart, the Crescent Shopping Centre in Dooradoyle and 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 and 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, on streets made ever-more pedestrian friendly, 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 River Island,

New Look, Penneys and much more. Pay a visit to Brown Thomas 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, surely one of the most chic department stores in Ireland, is renowned for its designer brands and exclusive collections – it's the place to go for a little bit of luxury, whatever your budget. Browse through top brands including Christian Louboutin, Diane Von Furstenberg and Marc Jacobs. Don't forget Brown's Restaurant the perfect place for when you need to recharge your batteries after an extended shopping session!

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

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 handmade jewellery to beauty to fashion and shops catering for children's wear. Or discover the many unique, beautiful

boutiques on Catherine Street. Lucky Lane, at 9³/₄ Catherine Street, is an Aladdin's Cave for those with a taste for the random, vintage and off-the-wall.

Whatever your niche requirement, 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 guirky offerings.

Further Afield

Outside of the city, Limerick offers many other wonderful places to get your dose of retail therapy. Newcastle West 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 longestrunning luxury boutiques in Ireland!

Furthermore, the picturesque village of Adare offers a unique shopping experience, where, along its charming traditional thoroughfares, you will find a number of stores stocking clothing and accessories from Ireland's top labels, as well as a number of unique craft and desian shops.





Crescent Shopping Centre Limerick 061 228560

www.crescentshoppingcentre.ie

Limerick is home to premier retail destination, Crescent Shopping Centre, the largest and oldest shopping complex outside of Dublin.

Celebrating 50 years in business this year and covering a massive 37,000 square metres of space and 2.400 free parking spaces, the Crescent is a mecca for fashionistas and families alike.

With up to 90 outlets, including big brand and independent stores. a 12-Screen Omniplex Cinema. numerous eateries and services, along with a county & city library

rescent Shopping Centre



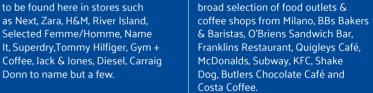
it truly has something for all.

Anchor tenants include Tesco.

Penneys, Shaws Department

Store, Boots and River Island.

From jewellery outlets, health & beauty outlets including Rituals. Therapie, Sugar Dolls nail bar, shoe stores, hobby shops to bookshops, giftware stores and not forgetting a vast selection of sports outlets including Sports Direct, JD, Intersport Elverys and Lifestyle Sports, there is



66 Big brand and independent stores

truly something for everyone. Services

also include hairdressers (Peter Mark).

a locksmith, banks, ATMs, a post office

The Crescent Playground also proves

very popular. The Centre boasts a

and a travel agent.

It also hosts a series of events year round and a spectacular arrival of Santa to his Grotto during the festive season. There is also a Crescent Gift Card available to purchase at the Information Desk. 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.

FASHION QUARTER If you're shopping for something special, check out the Fashion Quarter on Roches Street and **Catherine Street where** wonderful boutiques and quirky accessories are located

The Best Of Ireland Series

65

<image>

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...

The Milk Market Cornmarket Row

www.milkmarketlimerick.ie

Running at full capacity of a Saturday, 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.

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

The Weekly Market day is Saturday, with the Milk Market Venue open on Fri and Sun each week for an Outdoor café style experience-each with their own unique flavour. Friday (11am-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 family fun events on Sundays in addition to regular Vinyl Record, Art, Antique and Garden Fairs, creating a relaxed atmosphere.

The Best Of Ireland Series

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 the finest homemade Vegan and Natural Foods from Happy Food at Home, Turkish delights to dazzle the taste buds washed down with a squeezed pomegranate juice from Sefik or gluten-free goodies from Wild Fig Foods. Sandwich Sisters have some delicious gourmet wraps and sandwiches on offer.

If you'd rather take something home, Country Choice is famous for its fresh homemade food, including real hams, organic vegetables and wholemeal breads.

There is a range of fruit and vegetable stalls to rival any supermarket including Rose Cottage Fruit Farm, Killowen Orchard, Bearry Fruit & Vegetables, Nolan's Butcher have delicious ready to cook dishes and fresh cut vegetables. If baked goods are what you are after Sunflower Bakery 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, Quarrymount Free Range Meat and Nolans Butcher.

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, Silli Sauce and Píog Pies. There are also several cheese outlets including The Flying Cheese Brigade, Dave Smiths and Greenacres Cheese & Coffee Shop–a market institution for over a decade.

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, Vito Vintage shop has a fantastic selection of sustainable and stylish Ladies fashion located right beside the vintage P&T phone box housing the market AED, 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 Rockbarton Garden Centre and Irish Flower Company 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



M. Cahill & Son 47 Wickham Street 061 311821 www.cahillstea.com

Looking to discover a hidden gem in the heart of the city? 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. Quaint and full of character, 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 also has much to interest the non-smoker. If you are looking for something quirky or special, Cahill's stocks a wide range of gentlemen's gifts.

66 Join them for tea tastings every day

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 Irish-made giftware for men, together with international brands.

As well as this, the shop is also famous for its tea. Cahill's has a great

66 Looking to discover a hidden gem in the heart of the city?

range of teas and tisanes (herbal teas), which are blended and weighed in the shop in the old fashioned way. Connoisseurs can choose from classic blends, to exotic fruity and herbal flavours, to seasonal specials. Fancy a taste? Join them for tea tastings everyday!

Furthermore, carrying a selection of teapots, teacups, saucers, and infusers, Cahill's is truly a tea-lover's paradise.

There are many reasons to visit Limerick but no visit is complete without calling to Cahill's, the city's oldest shop. Stepping into its fragrant, heady environs is like stepping back in time.

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



Michael Gleeson 26 William St, Limerick 061 417407 www.michaelgleesonshoes.com

Michael Gleeson Shoes are Limerick's leading retailer in men's, ladies, and children's footwear. Located at 25 & 26 William Street. Situated in the heart of Limerick City.

With over 30 years of experience, Michael Gleeson Shoes pride themselves on being the friendliest shoe shop in the mid-west since 1985.

You will find all the top quality brands such as Clarks, Ecco, Gabor, Asics, Saucony, G comfort, Geox, Superfit to name a few. We offer footwear for those looking for comfort or who have problems with their feet. Including larger sizes and extra wide fittings. Medical range also available. We measure adult feet and give advice on the correct footwear.

66 Pride themselves on being the friendliest shoe shop in the midwest since 1985

Located right next door to the Men's and Ladies , there is a store dedicated to shoes just for the little ones, with an experienced team to measure and guide you in choosing the right shoes for your child, that not only fit properly, but look great too

All staff are fully trained shoe fitters and provide an expert fitting service. Check out our website

www.michaelgleesonshoes.com or follow us on facebook and instagram. Call us on **061-417407**

The Best Of Ireland Series







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 half a century.

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

66 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 and O'Connell Street, Clonmel. Connolly outlet store is located Bedford Row Limerick (massive discounts on oddments and end of season stock).

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.

66 Synonymous with quality menswear for over half a century





Skin 26 60 Catherine Street 061 596688 skin26.com

Skin 26 is where selfcare goes beyond a luxury. After one visit here the girls positive infectious energy makes rebooking a necessity. Most people will tell you to find that one place you love where all your beauty and skincare needs are attended to and there is much inspiration at Skin 26. This chic loft-style clinic in Limerick's hip Georgian Quarter offers unique skincare, wellness, beauty restoration products and treatments. Products that are vegan oncology friendly which are anti-inflammatory, cruelty-free, and non-toxic. All patrons can take comfort in knowing that the products being used have been carefully curated to meet their needs. From the moment you walk in you are greeted by a team of spirited experts who create an environment of positive energy and all-around good vibes!

Their holistic approach to skin care and beauty aims to help their clientele enhance their natural beauty and improve their overall skin health and internal wellness. Their complete approach means that any skin concerns are assessed, and the root causes are uncovered. At Skin26 they strive to not only deliver incredible services they will also provide you with holistic supplements and herbal remedies for various skin conditions.

they are a team of healers ready to create magic! You can count on Skin 26 to offer skincare solutions from A-Z. With a Holistic Nutritionist on the team you can make sure that your body is getting exactly what it needs to alow from within.

Skin 26 offers a range of skincare and wellness products and services including facials/facial peels including the star Gold facial, LED therapies, and Microneedling to name a few.

The philosophy around their treatments are based on energy and the beliefs that raising vibrations is the key to healing and transforming your wellbeing. They also pay attention to the body's circadian rhythms. Helping to fight the environmental insult during the day and to stimulate repair mechanisms during sleep.

These products contain cuttingedge ingredients and are absorbed into the skin with advanced delivery systems which are essential to the healing of aging skin, pigmentation, acne and rosacea. Skin26 have really thought of everything! They also carry a clinically evaluated moisturizing pillow case which is an exclusive allnight skin care treatment accessory, truly a cut above your typical silk pillow cases. When you leave Skin26 you will glow from the inside out and sleep easy knowing that the most scientifically advanced skincare technologies have been provided. Their skincare products are made for physical, mental, and spiritual self-care.

Every product in this haven is made to improve the quality of your skin with premium, cruelty-free formulas made from ethically sourced ingredients.

It doesn't stop there... They provide a number of beauty treatments including but not limited to waxing, bio sculpture nails, pedicure, tanning, and makeup, as well as Ellabanna Henna treatments, lashlifts, microblading, massage and reflexology. All of which designed to leave you feeling like the most confident version of yourself.

For those who love crystals and all things majestic, they also offer add on services with fairy card readings and incorporate crystals onto your chakras to balance your energy while getting a facial or massage. With a small, but dedicated team of experienced skin care and beauty experts - or 'skinnies' (as they are affectionately called) -Skin 26 offers clients a personalised service and a wealth of information on skin care, making it the perfect spot for anyone looking to transform their skin from the inside out.

They are passionate about energy and believe that when your energy can vibrate higher, you are able to accept positive change and in turn live a healthier lifestyle. This foundational aspect of good energy acts as a quide in all processes, operations and initiatives, they aim to curate, grow and support your relationship with vour skin and overall health.

The Wine Buff 17 Mallow Street

061 313394 ww.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

66 The country's biggest independent specialised wine retailer

occasion of any size or type. The

Sextons Menswear & Gatsby for Men Thomas Street, Limerick, gatsbyformen@gmail.com 061 411366

For the stylish man about town casual look or for that formal evening wear or wedding suit, the Sextons Menswear is a must for all the latest fashion from some of the top clothing brands globally.

wines are carefully chosen and prices start from €12.99 so great quality does not have to cost the earth. You will always meet a friendly face and Mike or Noel will be delighted

Stock includes wine from all over the world, champagne, wine gifts/accessories, Wilde Irish hand-made chocolates, olive oil and Anam hand roasted coffee.

biggest independent specialised wine retailer and has expanded to include 14 stores nationwide along with one in St. Emillion, Bordeaux.

over the world, champagne, wine gifts/accessories, Wilde Irish hand-made chocolates, olive oil and Anam hand roasted coffee.

With stores at 8 Thomas Street.

Limerick; Castletroy Town Centre and

won't need to travel far to find a store

Maiden Street, Newcastle West, you

66 All the latest

fashion from

some of the top

clothing brands

in your locality.

to offer any advice needed.

The Wine Buff is now the country's

Stock includes wine from all

Among the brands available are Benetti, Remus Uomo, Matinique and Eden Park as well as a full range of footwear from Bugatti.

Sextons Menswear also caters for debs and graduations.

> **SEXTON** FOR MEN





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Limerick offers a taste of everything, with generous helpings of restaurants, cosy cafés and vibrant pubs.

A Place Full of Fashion

The Best Of Ireland Series

The Best Of Ireland Series

Food 8 Drink 061 595156 www.sodalicious.ie

Sodalicious is a dedicated soda bread bakery and cafe situated in the heart of Limerick city. Owned by Jane Conlon, alumnus of the renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School, the emphasis is on freshly flavoured bread and scones creating the platform for a broader menu.

All the baked goods are handmade on the premises every morning. There are no artificial flavours added and everything is yeast free making Sodalicious a low fat nutritious option

for the health conscious customer The breads are also made with sodium bicarbonate which has been proven to aid digestion.

Offering classic white and brown breads and scones, Sodalicious has a wider range of more adventurous combinations including breads flavoured with cheese, herbs and nuts. Our breads have won national awards including gold in the Irish Food Awards 2021 and silver and bronze in Blas na hÉireann 2022. Jane was a winner in the She's Next programme 2022, a competition for female entrepreneurs sponsored by Visa. These accolades acknowledge the quality and integrity behind the Sodalicious brand. Our salad bar is freshly stocked every morning with Irish and locally

every morning with Irish and locally produced products where possible for example Macroom buffalo mozzarella, Gubbeen salami and chorizo, Horgan's pastrami, several Irish farmhouse cheeses, Limerick ham and home roasted chickens. Our delicious soda bread is filled and grilled promising you the best built sandwich in town.

To accompany our sweet and savoury dishes we offer two speciality coffees prepared by our fully trained baristas.

Open Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm, and Saturdays from 10am - 5pm for breakfast, brunch and lunch. Sodalicious also has a private dining room and is fully wheelchair accessible. Whether you are stopping in for your morning coffee, a hearty loaf or a sweet treat, Sodalicious is your one-stopshop for all things delicious!

66 Our delicious soda bread is filled and grilled promising you the best built sandwich in town



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. 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 5pm. Takeaway open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 11.30pm, and Sundays from 4pm to 11pm.

66 Serving the people of Limerick for 30 years



The Best Of Ireland Series

Texas Steakout 116 O'Connell Street 061 414440 / 061 410503 www.texassteakot.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.

66 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 life-sized cowboys and Indians.

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!





Food & Drink - Limerick Guide

Vincenzo Grill House First Floor at The George Hotel, Shannon St, Limerick 061 460425 thesavoycollection.com

Vincenzo Grill House & Stone Oven tucked away on the first floor of The George Hotel is a new addition to Limerick's foodie scene. Rich woods and fine leathers surround the contemporary bar, with a breath-taking glass atrium to create a luxurious feel and a friendly atmosphere. Sit back and relax as you are treated to an extensive selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic local craft beers, signature cocktails and international wines and spirits.

Open seven days serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, our menus feature sure-fire culinary classics featuring the very best of ingredients from our local, amazing artisan suppliers and producers. The menu is extensive offering a casual relaxed dining experience, with a choice of pizzas, pastas, burgers and delicious seafood from the Wild Atlantic Way. There is



an extensive vegan menu, Vincenzo's was recently named as one of the Top Ten Vegan Restaurants in Limerick. The Secret Garden is a delightful place to enjoy a spot of al fresco dining. Dine from the comfort of your own home as Vincenzo's is also available for takeaway and delivery. Our location in the heart of the city

centre is within walking distance of

The International Rugby Experience (opening soon) King Johns Castle, Thomond Park and so much more and is the ideal place to enjoy an unforgettable experience. Further information: 061 460425 thesavoycollection.com

Chicken Hut

31-33 O'Connell St, Limerick chickenhutlimerick@gmail.com 061 401532

Chicken Hut, located in the heart of Limerick City has been a favourite of locals and afar for over 34 years. Welcoming visitors from all over Ireland to taste a Limerick delicacy - their Gravy!

A favourite for all the family from their award winning Chicken Fillet Burger to their succulent fried chicken, be sure to stop when you're wandering the streets of Limerick City and taste an important part of Limerick life.

Be sure to check out the Tuesday Specials available every Tuesday until 10pm.

Snack Box, Super Snack Box, Breast Box, Super Breast Box, Dinner Box and Super Dinner Box Keep up to date on their socials Facebook: chickenhutlimerick Instagram: @ChickenHut1 Twitter: @ChickenHut1





Hamptons Bar & Grill Henry Street, Limerick 061 609325 www.thesavoycollection.com

Hamptons New York Style Steakhouse is located adjacent to The Savoy Hotel in the heart of Limerick city centre. It boasts a 5-star experience for those with the most discerning of palates, with an unrivalled quality of food and service. While the menu, the staff and the ambience are second to none, the jewel in the crown is their custom-designed woodfired Robata ovens and grills. Unique to Limerick and even Ireland, these incredible feats of engineering are built to ensure maximum flavour and succulence in all their steaks, chicken and seafood. Their culinary team are committed to supporting local food producers and all their seafood is sourced from The Wild Atlantic Way.

66 Seafood is sourced from The Wild Atlantic Way

Serving lunch and dinner from 12 noon 7 days per week, they offer an a la carte and value menu as well as an extensive wine and cocktail list. Whether you are sightseeing, dining with family, friends or work colleagues Hamptons is the perfect choice for quality food, and a warm lively dining experience in the heart of the city centre.



Gusto d'Italia 30 William Street, Limerick 061 590642 www.gustoditalia.ie

Located on the busy thoroughfare of William Street, with a fresh, bright, and deceptively spacious interior, Gusto d'Italia is your one-stop shop for sweet treats. A patisserie and gelateria, Gusto d'Italia serves authentic Italian gelato and a range of pastries such as tiramisu, pannacotta, and sliced cakes.

The menu also includes freshly prepared pancakes, waffles and crepes (with dairy and gluten free option) as well as sundaes, milkshakes and smoothies. There are a whopping 24 colourful flavours of gelato and fruity vegan sorbets - a number of toppings such as crushed Oreo cookies, chocolate flakes, fruit, nuts, and sauces.

Similar to ice cream, gelato is a frozen treat popular in Italy. Churned at a slower rate, gelato is typically denser than ice cream and served at a lower temperature to give an extra smooth and silky texture. As well as this, the fat content of gelato is lower, ensuring the base flavour really shines through.

A truly artisan ice-cream parlour, all the offerings at Gusto d'Italia are made in house from original recipes, using traditional methods. Furthermore, ingredients like milk, cream, and fruits are delivered daily from local suppliers.

66 The ideal spot for anyone looking to satisfy their sweet tooth in style

Gusto d'Italia also makes cakes for any occasion - as well as specialty gelato cakes. Whether it's for a birthday, wedding, or a communion, you can order a cake made to your specifications from the website, or in store.

Gusto d'Italia is the ideal spot for anyone looking to satisfy their sweet tooth in style.

Off the Bone Gastropub Raheen Roundabout, Raheen offthebonegastropub.com 061 487410

Off The Bone Limerick, hot press magazines 'Best Gastropub Limerick' and winners of best Gastropub Ireland at the Food Awards 2022 - is an essential stop-off for those that want to experience Black Angus beef 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. The establishment is a part of a select 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 Irish Beef.

To compliment their exquisite menu, Off The Bone offers an extensive and well thought out drink's menu featuring the most stunning cocktails, wines, beers and an array of

The Curry House Raheen, Limerick, V94 E77X 061-487405.

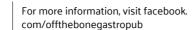
If you are looking for a genuine taste of India, then look no further than "The Curry House", an award winning Indian restaurant located at Great National South Court Hotel in Raheen, Limerick.

Chef Lekhraj Kapil and his team fuse sophisticated flavours and expertise to create an authentic dining experience. Lekhraj joins The Curry House with a wealth of experience from working in prestigious eateries in India, Dubai and Dublin.

Alongside established regulars such as kormas and tikka masala you will also find exotic dishes such as Chittinad, a festive dish from the Chettiyar clan in Tamil Nadu which combines black peppercorns, chillies, fennel and coconut in a rich, fiery spiced sauce.

The Curry House prides itself on serving mouth watering, flavourful, completely authentic, traditional Indian cuisine to quests. It is the perfect place to tantalise your taste speciality spirits. Both their food and drinks menus change seasonally to offer the best and freshest seasonal ingredients. 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 quest performances every weekend 'til late. Located adjacent to the Great National South Court Hotel, there's ample, free parking and public transport nearby.







buds with appetising and aromatic dishes, crafted carefully to suit every palate. And if you don't fancy eating in, you can always order a takeaway from the extensive takeaway menu.

L The authentic taste of India at the Curry House

The Curry House combines light tones, contemporary furnishings and

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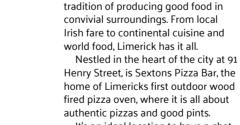


spacious seating creating a chic and informal place to dine at affordable prices. In short, The Curry House has something for everyone to truly enjoy.

e Curry House

Opening Hours: Mon - Sat: 16.00 - 21.30 pm Sun: 16.00 - 21.00 pm Early Bird Menu available.

Groups of all sizes welcome.



91 Henry Street

sextons.ie

061 319359

La Piccola

lapiccolapizzeria.ie

061 315844

56 O'Connell Street, Limerick

family restaurant in the heart

of Limerick city centre run by

after by their son Stefano.

the Copolla family - Alfredo and

Anna since 1985, and now looked

Based on the lower ground

floor of 55 O'Connell on the edge

of the city's Georgian guarter, the

Coppolla family have decades of

of Italian food to the Mid West.

to work in the restaurant trade.

of food and celebration with

There has always been a love

food at La Piccola and this shines

through in their menu daily and

in the restaurant's atmosphere.

set menu for €30 or has an a la

carte menu that will suit all tastes.

Sextons Pizza Bar

Limerick city has a long

La Piccola offers a three-course

experience in bringing the very best

Alfredo is originally from outside

Rome while Anna is from the city of

Genoa and they came here originally

La Piccola is an authentic Italian

It's an ideal location to have a chat over an Italian or Spanish wine, a craft beer or just a cup of coffee and enjoy one of Sexton's delicious, thin base, wood-fired pizzas range from the classic margherita to the more gourmet pizzas, which include vegetarian, gluten friendly and vegan options in a relaxing atmosphere.

If nothing on the menu grabs your attention, you can create your own by choosing all your own toppings. With their wood-fire oven.

Sexton's have captured the magic of baking the pizza crust, creating

All the sauces, breads, deserts and, of course, ice-cream, are prepared in-house daily. And all the meats are sourced locally. All the wines and coffee are imported to give you the best taste of Italy, not just in Limerick, but in Ireland.

66 An extremely loyal following of regular patrons

The restaurant attracts a varied clientele, including an extremely loyal following of regular patrons, Italian food aficionados and tourists. Families, groups and children are welcome and La Piccola is an ideal location for an intimate dinner for two. Reservations (+353 61315844) are recommended, but walk-ins are also guaranteed a warm, Italian welcome. La Piccola is open Monday-Saturday from 5:30 pm - 10 pm. You can also follow La Piccola on Facebook and Instagram.



a light, crisp but chewy platform on which all the toppings and sauces rest. The way the pizza can rest directly on the oven floor lets the crust bake with conducive heat, resulting in the perfectly browned bottom, but cracks righteously when sliced and crunches when eaten.

With 20 years' experience servicing the pub trade, Sexton's have created something for everyone. In a traditional home, the adults

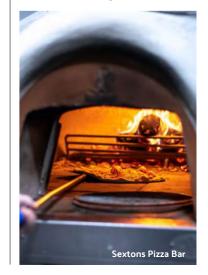
socialised in the 'Good Sitting Room' and youngsters were confined to the kitchen and backyard. This is reflected in the different areas of the pub. We have a good sitting room (used by mature customers), a kitchen and a 'bathroom' snug (young people gravitate to this area). Families can gather round the kitchen table for a home-from-home meal.

The Pizza Garden is a great outdoor space, with an Inglenook fireplace which is perfect for both winter and summer events. They are available to cater for private functions. Sexton's is also a place where

you can play a board game or have a game of cards.

Sexton's is a hands-on, family run pub whose motto is 'Nothing is a problem'. Every customer is made to feel welcome.

It's no wonder Sexton's is an award winning establishment, twice recommended on Restaurant Guru for Best Pizza and winning the Best Newcomer award in the Irish Pub Awards regional section.



Pubs

Bobby Byrnes 1-3 O Connell Avenue 061 316949 www.bobbybyrnes.ie

Bobby Byrne's, 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. The gastropub holds several awards and accolades for its food, along with recommendations from food writers and critics such as Lucinda O'Sullivan and Georgina Campbell, to name but two.

Bobby Byrnes 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 include a bustling gastropub with a corner store, outside catering with the addition of their new exciting quirky outdoor garden and cocktail bar the Bath Club.

The Glen Tavern 1-2 Lower Glentworth Street 061 411380 www.glentavern.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 2013/14/15/16/17 and 2018.

Whiskey and Craft Beer Tasting are new options from the extensive selection of events for 2019.

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. *Limerick has a variety of both quaint, old style public houses as well as stylish, modern pubs to choose from.*



Robert, Fiona 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 reviews of the staff and the dishes like their "Best ever fish & chips".

When rugby season recommences, Bobby's is the only place in town to soak up the match atmosphere and

Food is served from 9.30am

until 10pm all freshly prepared

on the premises by chef, Josie.

Breakfast options include

Light lunch options include

there is a large choice such as

shepherd's pie, ploughman's lunch

as well as daily specials e.g. curry.

of the day. Evening meals include

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Irish stew and a vegetarian dish

seafood chowder, homemade soups,

sandwiches and 'a light bite of the day.'

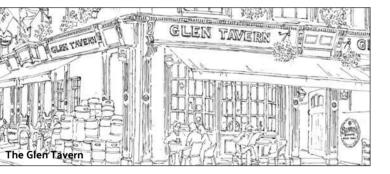
For a heartier meal in the daytime,

the iconic full Irish, a mini

breakfast, and lots more.

enjoy a few pints as the official match bar venue for the Munster Rugby Supporters Club. The pub walls and ceilings are adorned with fascinating rugby club memorabilia, international flags and jerseys.

So, if you are 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 yourself why it's "Limericks friendliest foodie corner" – it won't disappoint.



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.

Flannery's Bar 19 Shannon Street 061 415027

Step into one of Limerick's bestkept secrets at Flannery's Bar on Shannon Street.

With a traditional wooden pub façade and gold lettering, Flannery's is located directly opposite the entrance of the George Boutique Hotel.

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.

66 Superb bar to bask in all things Limerick and Munster

Located just off O'Connell Street, it would be easy to overlook this small pub, but the big welcome and familyrun ethos is not to be missed. This is a superb bar to bask in all things Limerick and Munster, whether the pre-match warm-up, watching games

Myles Breen's 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, or having a drink afterwards while discussing the action.

With strong connections to Ahane GAA through Paul's wife, Eilise–the granddaughter of one of Limerick and Ahane's finest hurlers, the great Mick Mackey–it is also a good spot to watch all the GAA action in the summer.

On Sundays, a local trad band entertains with foot stomping traditional music from 6pm to late. On Thursdays we also get the foot tapping to a folk group who will lead you on a mystical journey of song and melody from throughout the ages. If you are looking for a light lunch option, they have you covered. Local favorites include the Mick Mackey baked potato with fillings of your choice, Mamma Fla's homemade soup of the day, King John's nordic flat bread (big favourite with the vegetarians), locally sourced pork belly toastie or the timeless classic toastie of the day is always an option. And for those not so pleasant days outside we have you covered with a tasty hot whiskey or one of the finest Irish coffees in Limerick!





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.

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.

66 Trading since 1909 and maintains the classic interior and character

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. W.J. South's also caters for evening food Wednesday to Sunday and lunch Sunday's from 12:30. 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. 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.



Mickey Martin's Augustinian Lane, Limerick,

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

There has been a licensed premises here for over 200 years, ever since the first licences were issued in 1819. Mrs. Lucinda Warren and her daughter were among the first to the courthouse that January, Deirdre Martin and her daughters proudly continue the tradition of Bean an Ti in Augustinian Lane to this day.

But don't be misled by the slow,

easy-going, olde-worlde charm. Mickey's is that down-a-lane pub that you can't quite figure out how you found it the morning after. Alongside an extensive draught selection and carefully curated cocktail list, music is really the star of the show in Mickey's. All the staff members have a welleducated ear. You are likely to hear an eclectic mix of Funk, Soul, Jazz, World-Music, Hip-Hop, Disco and House. Along with the resident DJs, Mickey's also hosts DJs from all around Ireland and abroad.

Nor is it always little. Regularly Mickey's spills out onto the lane,

The Best Of Ireland Series

transforming the whole area into a street festival, for quest DJs, match nights and 'cos the sun is shining.

66 Mickey's hosts DIs from all around Ireland and abroad

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!

Dolan's Pub & Restaurant Dock Road, Limerick 061 314483 www.dolans.ie

Dolans is an award-winning complex encompassing the pub & restaurant, rooftop terrace and three music venues. Dolans is a family-owned business on the Dock Road serving Irish food, and beverages with a great selection of Irish whiskeys to explore. 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.

The menu specialises in Irish fresh food with a strong leaning toward local produce. We are especially known for our Irish stew and fresh fish and chips.

There are several large screens for watching sport (the atmosphere is especially lively for Munster games)



Phil Flannery's Bar 2 Denmark Street 061 419761

"Come in for a chat and stay for the craic" is the motto at our friendly. family-run bar in the heart of the city. Located in Limerick's popular Market Quarter area, the service at Phil Flannery's is all about the

personal touch and the amiable staff complement the great pint of plain. We offer a warm welcome in comfortable surroundings including features such as an open fire and free Wi-Fi. There is also a stylish beer garden with its own private bar on the second floor. When it comes to food, quality and value are always on the menu.

and a smoking area that over looks

the working Limerick Docks.

choice for bar of the year (2022),

in Munster (2022). Best live music

Pubs Global Best Entertainment

Winner Irish Pubs Global Best

SW (2017), Winner Pure M Best

Venue Award (2017), Metal Radio

Experience (World) Winner (2017),

Entertainment Experience (Ireland)

Winner (2017). Irish Pub Best Venue

experience silver (2022) Winner Irish

Dolan's Pub & Restaurant Ireland Best festival, Hotpress Readers award (2015) Best Venue Dolans has been awarded People IMRO Live Music Venue of the Year Award (2014), Hotpress Venue of the Imro award for best live music venue Year (2013) Special Commendation,

> We have free live music Wednesday to Sunday in the pub. Please check our listings for upcoming shows in our venues and our food menu can be viewed on our website: www.dolans.ie We look forward to welcoming you to Dolans soon!

IMRO (2013) Munster Winner.

We are open for our ever-popular breakfast and lunch menu from 9.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday.

Sports fans will be right at home watching the top sports of the day- with Soccer, Rugby, GAA, Golf. American Football & all main events displayed over 8 screens. There are always barstool experts waiting to give their valued opinion.

66 Come in for a chat and stay for the craic

Phil Flannery's is also a great spot at weekends with live bands and DJs as a regular fixture. There is a private function room available for all occasions/parties. The bar opens until 1am on Friday and Saturday nights and any of our regulars will tell you that Phil Flannery's aims to be a true local, so a Cead Mile Failte is always waiting here.

The Best Of Ireland Series



101 Limerick 101 O'Connell Street 061 597164 www.101limerick.com

101 Limerick is the name on everyone's lips since winning Southern Comfort's, People's Choice - Bar of the Year for 2019 in Ireland. It is Limerick's most popular hotspot, located on the main street in the business district; 101 Limerick is a multi-leveled cocktail bar with an edge, offering four floors of fun in the heart of the city.

"The Basement" at 101 is an authentic and comfortable Irish Bar, decorated with paintings by the acclaimed Irish artist Solus and tales of "Dead" Rob Rich to give visitors a taste Limerick character.

The heart and uniqueness of 101 Limerick is their signature outdoor bars, with ample heating, colourful lighting, plants and creative design, the bar offers an escape into a stylish "Secret Garden" venue where you can sip your drink or dance to the beat of laid-back house music.

101 Limerick brings an air of old-school glamour with its slick and suave décor and atmosphere. Complete with a 1920's inspired parlour bar in "The Piano Bar," it is the ideal venue for a night out with a bit of extra sparkle.

Recent addition to the collective are "The Boardroom Bar" and "The Potting Shed" which add more dynamic's to the multipurpose collective.

The venue features a mix of live music and di's throughout the week and on weekends a visit to the exclusive "Opium" Lounge is a must, with bottle service, top class liquor being served and an oriental vibe, this seductive atmosphere will have you dancing early into the morning. 101 Limerick caters for private parties, corporate events, hen night, engagement parties and yes, even weddings.

Bookings are required for the booths and enquiries can be made at bookings @101limerick.com

The Commercial 46/47 Catherine Street www.facebook.com/

thecommerciallimerick With its dark oak wooden floor

boards, its intimate candle lit snug and blazing wood burning stove nestled into the buildings original 200 year old red brick arched fireplace, this charming softly lit oak bar exudes intimacy, ambience and character.

Having being sensitively restored, redecorated and refurbished to a delightful standard, this historic 1800 landmark building and renowned family run hotel set in the heart of Georgian Limerick reopened its door as a bar and live music venue to serve its cities dwellers and visitors into the late hours once again.

If you're longing to unwind and enjoy banter, fireside fiddles and friends or to gently reminisce and gaze through timeless wooden sash windows, ponder over your favourite novel or crossword and sip on a mug of rustic homemade soup, then



The Record Room 46/47 Catherine Street www.facebook.com/ recordroomlimerick

The Record Room, nestled below The Commercial bar on Catherine Street, is a hidden gem. Established in 2018, this stone-walled, candlelit basement performance venue has quietly and without fuss devoted itself to providing a warm and welcoming platform for Limerick's rich social and cultural scene.

Music is without a doubt the mainstay of this small and intimate space, and the live music programme

look no further. Perhaps that doesn't rock your boat though and a spirited night of live music in the intimate underground stone walled basement bar does.

66 If you're longing to unwind and enjoy banter, fireside fiddles and friends

The Commercial is a place you will feel wholly at ease with warm welcoming experienced staff, it is cosy, traditional and complimentary to its period and character - a little hidden gem deep in the heart of the city that serves a smashing hot toddy and one of the creamiest pints around. Situated on a Georgian terraced street The Commercial 46/47

Catherine Street is accessible by foot and car, it has street parking outside, is a convenient 5 minute walk to Colbert Bus and Rail Station and an

regularly features the cream of local

rock. For lovers of electronic music. a

regular rotation of some of the city's

what the top-class sound-system is

capable of on any given

Saturday night.

most respected vinyl DJs demonstrate

Don't expect chart topping anthems

though. The hip-hop, funk, soul, disco

and house soundtrack is decidedly

individual and attracts a fun, eclectic

crowd that match the vibe perfectly.

But the Record Room is so much

more than just a gig spot. It's a cultural

melting pot and one of the most

diverse event venues in Limerick.

and national indie and alternative



In 2019 it hosted the Richard Harris International Film Festival, Limerick Fringe Festival, and was a core host for the Limerick Soviet Centenary. The monthly Mic Drop Comedy Club regularly fills the Record Room to capacity, and mid-week salsa dance classes are often raucous affairs and a key social hub for Limerick's international community.

Monthly flea markets and vintage fashion shops pop up regularly at weekends. Rugby fans can take refuge underground with a good pint and a cosy corner to watch key matches on the big screen, and theatre groups regularly put on small productions on the Record Room's delightful redcurtained stage. Instagram: @record_room_limerick

The Best Of Ireland Series

abundance of the cities hotels, shops

Instagram: @thecommericallimerick

and restaurants.

and one of the most diverse event venues

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Katie Dalys Heritage Pub and Kitchen 12 Castle St, Castle Parade 061 214893 www.katiedalyslimerick.com

Katie Dalys Heritage Pub and Kitchen is a popular spot with locals and visitors alike. With a prime location in the heart of Limerick's famous Medieval Quarter, the pub is right beside King John's Castle - one of the city's best known and most-visited historical landmarks. Furthermore, situated as it is en route to Thomond Park, Katie Dalys has also proven popular with the Munster Rugby crowd.

In keeping with its historical setting, the pub focuses on traditional Irish food and hospitality. With a menu featuring pub favourites such as fish

66 In the heart of Limerick's famous Medieval Quarter

Reine Rein Reine R

and chips and cottage pie, as well as a number of healthy options, Katie Dalys has all the credentials of a true gastropub. Serving lunch and dinner from 12 noon to 9pm, 7 days a week, the pub also has a set menu and finger food menu, making it a viable option for big groups and parties. As well as its dining options, Katie Dalys also has an extensive drinks selection, with numerous wines, spirits, ciders, and a particular focus on aged oak barrel whiskeys and craft beers.

With four televisions offering live sports coverage on the weekend, and music every Friday night till late, the pub provides plenty of entertainment for patrons. Whether you are sightseeing in the old part of the city, looking for a hearty lunch with colleagues or a night out with friends, Katie Dalys is a versatile spot with something for everyone.

The Locke Bar 3 Georges Quay, Limerick 061 413733 www.lockebar.com

The Locke Bar is one of Limerick's best-loved 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.

66 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.

The Best Of Ireland Series

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 Horse & Hound Bar 1 Mulgrave Street, Limerick 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.

Collins Bar & Resturaunt Dooradoyle Road, V94XKF 061 309191 www.collinsbar.ie

We serve top class, restaurant quality food in our muliti-award winning bar.

We realise the importance of value for money. We also know there is more to value than price. Variety, quality, service, and price all combine to make us what we are.

We partner with local suppliers and build our menus and weekly specials around the best the Golden Vale has to offer. We offer all the classic Irish dishes but we also like to experiment with how far we can explore and bring our customers with us on our journey.

We are open 7 days from 12 - 9 pm, serving lunch, ala carte dinner, weekly specials, and a street food menu from our food truck at weekends. All our desserts are made in house by our team, as are our breads. If we can make it we will. We set the same high standard of 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.

care with dishes for our Vegan and Vegetarian customers. Give us a visit! Irish Food Pub of the Year, Best Casual Dining Munster, Best Gastro Pub Munster, Best Young Chef Munster

Find us: at M20 Junction 2, V94XKF7. Ample, free car parking. Coaches welcome. Facebook & Instagram: @collinsbardooradoyle Twitter: @collinsbardoora





The Old Quarter Pub, Café & Townhouse 3 Little Ellen Street 061 401190 www.theoldguarter.ie

The Old Quarter Pub, Café & Townhouse is located on Little Ellen Street in the heart of Limerick city. A favourite destination for many years in the Market Quarter area of the city, within the shopping and entertainment district, right off the main thoroughfare of O'Connell Street.

The Old Quarter Townhouse, has been newly refurbished providing modern quality accommodation for all visitors that includes free wi-fi, flat screen tv, tea, coffee and discounted car parking in select car parks.

66 Newly refurbished, providing modern quality accommodation for all visitors

The bus and rail station is within walking distance, and with a public car park only minutes from the front door, provides easy access. With a 24hr reception and friendly staff that are happy to help, you'll be exploring and enjoying Limerick in no time! With many of the Treaty city's main attractions close by, King John's Castle, The Hunt Museum and Thomond Rugby Park to name a few, there are many sites and activities of interest. Enjoy a stroll through the Market Quarter, with its many boutiques and colourful shops during the day and enjoy the vibrant nightlife of the area once the sun goes down. The Old Quarter Bar is a hive of activity serving breakfast, lunch and evening meals from 9am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and

1pm to 6pm on Sundays. A menu consisting of traditional Irish to European and international dishes created to suit you.

The unique outdoor all-weather heated veranda caters to local and international visitors, having a coffee, a glass of wine or one of their many cocktails and beers, where you watch the world pass by at your leisure.

Alternatively, watch your favourite sporting events on the many tv's located within. But food isn't all the Old Quarter is known for.

At weekends The Old Quarter bar transforms into a lively entertainment hub as a live music





66 Unique outdoor all-weather heated veranda, caters to local & international visitors

venue supporting local bands with music from the current charts to classic rock that suits everyone's taste. Check social media for details. Cocktails being a specialty, the mixologist hosts fun-loving groups to participate in a cocktail making master class where you become the performer and centre of attention to build or shake your cocktail to life. In addition, they cater for special occasions, from a girlie party to work or birthday celebrations. Music enthusiasts looking for the

buzz of a live band, on a girls/boys night out, just visiting Limerick, or a place to rest your head, The Old Quarter has something for you! Check them out online at theoldquarter.ie, you'll have a stay that you won't forget.



66 A lively entertainment hub as a live music venue venue supporting local bands







Mother Macs Public House 8&9 High Street, Limerick mother@mothermmacs.ie www.mothermacs.ie 061 414900

Nestled beside the famous Milk Market in Limerick City on High Street and Upper Denmark Street, Mother Macs Public House is one of Limerick's most iconic buildings. The building dates back to the 18th century and was purchased in 2015 by two local brothers who opened the doors as Mother Macs Public House. An architecturally significant building, the large windows give a panoramic view of the passing hustle and bustle. Recognised in 2022 by Lonely Planet as 1 of the 20 best pubs in Ireland for pints, music and the time of your life. Mother Macs was also named Traditional Bar of the Year 2022. Mother Macs certainly doesn't disappoint. The bar is renowned



Limerick Whiskey Experience 10 High Street, Limerick www.whiskeyexperience.ie info@whiskeyexperience.ie

The Limerick Whiskey experience is based in Mother Macs Public House in the thriving market district of Limerick City. Enjoy tasting a diverse range of Irish whiskeys as you relax in the comfortable surroundings of Peggy's Parlour; a private boutique Whiskey Bar in Mother Macs Public House. Relax and enjoy the flavours, stories, and history as you are guided through this experience by experts and accredited professionals in the whiskey industry:

Hear about the fascinating history of Irish whiskey and the personal stories behind the brands.

Learn how local ingredients and traditional production methods impact the flavours of whiskey.

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nationally and internationally for supporting small/local Irish-owned producers. They have 24 beer taps, with 15 dedicated to microbreweries some are permanent and some are rotational. In addition, they boast an impressive whiskey collection, having over 150 unique whiskeys available. Visitors are encouraged to enquire about monthly offers and tastings.

Mother Macs has the distinction of being one of only a small handful of Limerick bars without a TV. It makes for a brilliantly atmospheric pub that's a favourite for locals and visitors alike. Co-owner James McMahon explains "The Irish Pub plays a unique role in our culture and heritage. It is a place where new friends are welcomed, old friends are celebrated and the art of conversation is embraced".

66 The Irish Pub plays a unique role in our culture and heritage

Impress your friends with your new found knowledge of the skill of whiskey tasting including the flavour wheel and recognising the unique character of each whiskey.

History: the history of Irish whiskey, Heritage of Mother Macs pub & local stories.

The Team: whiskey experts, great storytellers & WSET trained guides

Guided Tasting: taste a curated selection of Irish Whiskeys & a guided tasting tutorial.

Food Pairing: Optional food pairing & Local artisan foods.



Roma Casino 39 William Street, Limerick 061 596864

061 596864 romacasino.ie

For amusements in the centre of Limerick City, Roma Casino is a great option for locals and visitors alike. Located at the top of William St, Roma has been a fixture in Limerick city for over 50 years, and the many patrons who return time and again are a testament to the quality gaming experience it offers.

Right in the heart of the city, the casino is an oasis of calm for visitors looking to escape into a plush, comfortable world of fun. With a range of slots, roulette and casino machines, Roma has something to suit every taste. They also run an hourly machine bingo which offers one lucky customer the chance to win up to €100 on the spin of a wheel.

As well as its amusements, Roma is also known to take exceptional care of its customers. There is complimentary coffee and tea for all patrons, and

No 3 Bar & Restaurant

3 Lower Glenworth Street thenumber3pub@gmail.com 061 410830

Limerick is a great place for a chat or a bit of banter over a pint and has a long established reputation for fine food.

You can combine all of that in the Number Three Bar and Restaurant on Lower Glentworth Street, a cosy bar in the centre of the city that not only serves up great beers, wines and food, but does so with a warm Limerick welcome.

66 Great place for a chat or a bit of banter over a pint and has a long established reputation for fine food. VIP areas with extra-comfortable surroundings for those who want to avail of the very best Roma has to offer. Regular visitors can also avail of the loyalty card scheme, proving that Roma is certainly an establishment that prioritises its patrons.

Spacious, yet with an intimate and friendly atmosphere, Roma is perfect for chilled out solo games or for social outings. Open from 8.30am to 2am, an evening at the casino is an evening to enjoy. Keep an eye on their Facebook for special offers, events, prizes and more. Drop into Roma Casino and who knows - today could be your lucky day!

Coasis of calm for visitors looking to escape into a plush, comfortable world of fun

From pasta, seafood and steaks to traditional Irish breakfasts and plenty of vegetarian options, their extensive menu has something for everyone and every taste. You can find their full range on their Facebook page. You can dine inside or take a seat

outside and watch the world go by, while there is also an in-house collection service.

The Best Of Ireland Series

The Number Three is a live music venue at weekends, attracting top local and national musicians and bands. For reservations email

thenumber3pub@gmail.com or call +353-61-410830.





House Limerick Howley's Quay, Limerick 061 513282 houselimerick.ie

Opening Times

Monday - Thursday 12pm - 11.30pm Friday 12 pm till Late Saturday 10 am till Late Sunday 10 am - 11:30 pm

The vision for House is first and foremost to create an amazing guest experience, their beautiful spaces allow for you to come and social dine with friends and family.

Open 7 days a week serving a delicious all day menu and weekend Brunch.

Patrons love the stunning setting beside the boardwalk. "There's a great atmosphere, with a buzz in a beautiful riverside location"



& This is such a good food and drink experience. Staff are extremely friendly and attentive, with a great selection of food and cocktails.

The Best Of Ireland Series





The Top House Newtown, Annacotty 061 338893 www.thetophouse.ie

Conveniently located just outside Limerick city centre, The Top House Pub & Kitchen is an excellent choice for your next outing.

Newly refurbished in 2017, The Top House features a large wraparound bar, and decor characterised by the warm accents of polished wood, leather, and bronze. With exposed brick, a fireplace and comfortable seating, the finishings on the bar and restaurant create a space which is welcoming, with an air of subtle sophistication. In addition to this, adjacent to the bar is The Top House Garden, a heated veranda and sun trap. The Garden can also be covered up, allowing you to enjoy al fresco dining all year round.



Ultimately, The Top House boasts an atmosphere that is at once cosy and convivial, making it the perfect place for family meal, a reunion with friends, or an intimate dinner for two!

66 Perfect place for family meal, a reunion with friends, or an intimate dinner for two!

Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week, the menu - and service - is second to none. The Top House caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences, ensuring that there's something for everyone. They offer everything from gastropub favourites like BBQ ribs, chicken wings and beef

burgers, to delicious seafood dishes and European cuisine. Try popular exotic dishes such as the Thai red curry and sizzling fajitas, or enjoy the best of traditional food including top quality sirloin steak and fish and chips.

In addition to this, The Top House also has an extensive drinks selection, featuring a range of beers, wines, spirits and cocktails. Keep an eye on their social media to spot their cocktail of the month, drinks deals, and seasonal specials!

The Top House also caters for corporate events, engagements and birthdays, so if you have a large group, a special event, or celebration to plan for, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Furthermore, The Top House also offers a haven for sporting fans, with strategically placed TVs throughout the space, showing a variety of events and matches throughout the year. Whether you are a Munster Rugby supporter, a GAA fanatic, or soccer aficionado, you can trust you'll find your passions catered to.

Located in Newtown centre, The Top House is placed right at the intersection of Castletroy, Annacotty, and Monaleen, making it easily accessible for locals and visitors alike. You can also find them on Facebook @thetophouseLK, Instagram @ the_top_house, and Twitter @top_ house_ and also on their website at thetophouse.ie.

With food, service, and atmosphere second to none, choose the Top House for your next group brunch, big night out, or family celebration - you won't be disappointed!

The Best Of Ireland Series

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Limerick

The Best Of Ireland Series

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A Place Full of Passion and Pride

Three County Levels

ADARE A VILLAGE STEEPED IN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The charming village of Adare, founded in the 13th Century, overlooks the fording point of the River Maigue from which the village derives its meaning "The Ford of the Oak" (Áth Dara). Located just 18 kilometres south-west of Limerick city, the village is widely renowned as one of the most beautiful in Ireland.

With a history and culture stretching back centuries and a community as welcoming as you could hope to find anywhere in the world, Adare embraces the very best of Ireland. Picture postcard thatched cottages line its broad main street, housing craft shops and restaurants, while medieval buildings and outstanding ancient and archaeological ruins are particular highlights of the village. And it's little wonder, because Adare delivers the Ireland of the imagination – in reality.

Surrounded by nature at its most verdant and gentle, Adare is a designated Heritage Town and has received many accolades over the years, including the prestigious Tidy Town Award.

With a history and culture stretching back centuries and a community

as welcoming as you could hope to find anywhere in the world, Adare embraces the very best of Ireland. Picture postcard thatched cottages line its broad main street, housing craft shops and restaurants, while medieval buildings and outstanding ancient and archaeological ruins are particular highlights of the village.

But Adare is also dynamic and transforming. Like a growing acorn, it is multi-faceted and changing. A year-round destination, the village is an international wedding capital and the perfect location for adventures and outdoor activities. All of which is supported by incredible hospitality and a food scene and retail offering that is both innovative and unique.

Adare has advantages few other parts of rural Ireland can offer.

A destination with an edge, rooted in the past, yet embracing a global future.



THE DELIGHTS OF ADARE

With a population of about 2,000, Modern Adare is a lively place with much to recommend it. The village has two four-star hotels in the form of one-time estate coach house and old world hotel, the Dunraven Arms and the modern, FitzGerald's Woodlands House Hotel. Or you can choose to stay in high quality bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation in the village and surrounds.

It boasts a world-class golf course, Adare Manor Golf Club, which was founded by the 4th Earl of Dunraven and completed in 1900. This is just one of many popular activities abounding around Adare. Sports of all types are played, particularly Gaelic Games. Other outdoor pursuits such as hiking and fishing are also prevalent. There is a charming village park, great for a stroll in any weather.

The village is dotted with many bustling bars, shops and restaurants. Adare is a foodie heaven with numerous fine cafés and restaurants as well as several well-known pubs. The stores here are brimming over with everything from fashion to art; there is literally something for everyone. The village hosts regular events, with particular focus on the culture and heritage of the area.

66 Brimming over with everything from fashion to art; there is something for everyone

Adare is a multiple winner in the prestigious, nationwide Tidy Towns Competition. It won the overall national title in 1976. A local committee gives time voluntarily to keep the village looking its best. It was the tidiest town in County Limerick in 2016 - adding another Gold Medal to a considerable haul won over the years. In 2015, adjudicators complimented

The Best Of Ireland Series

Adare on over 50 years of "support and dedication" for the Tidy Towns competition which is "no mean feat," adding "well done to all the community of Adare for their efforts over the decades into making Adare one of Ireland's Tidiest Towns."

Adare Heritage Centre, right in the heart of the village, provides historical context and insight into the story of this beautiful and important area.

The surrounding areas of picturesque rural landscapes are also popular with walkers and outdoors enthusiasts. Visitors can go walking in Curraghchase Forest Park, walk the "Sli na Slainte" through the town, or along the riverbank, or even go fishing in the River Maigue!

The beautiful village and surrounding countryside attracts many visitors from far and wide. The village aims to extend a 'Céad mile fáilte' to each and every visitor and ensure their time in Adare is an unforgettable experience.

Desmond Castle

The majestic Desmond Castle has been overlooking the River Maigue from the north bank since the 13th century. There are supervised tours from June to September, which can be organised through Adare Heritage Centre. For bookings call 061-396666 or reserve online at www.adareheritagecentre.ie.

Adare Village website helps you plan your visit! **WWW.ADAREVILLAGE.COM**

Where to Stay: Hotels - B&Bs -Self Catering - Camping.

Where to Eat & Drink: Restaurants - Hotels - Bars -Off Licences.

Where to Shop: Boutiques - Supermarkets - Footwear -General Stores.

Where to Visit: Castle Tours - Adare Heritage - Historical Buildings - Churches - Visitor Attractions in the Region -Museums - Castles - Thatched Cottages

Where to Play Golf: Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort - Adare Manor Golf Club -Regional courses. www.adarevillage.com is a comprehensive online directory for Adare.

On your smart phone, tablet and laptop, you will find full details of: Transport and Taxi Services, Medical Services, Historical Information, Genealogy, Arts and Antiques, Spa and Leisure Centres, Bridalwear and Wedding Information...just about everything Adare has to offer tourists when visiting Ireland's prettiest village!

Click on www.adarevillage.com

for all you need to know about Adare.

Find us on **F** Facebook.com/adarevillage



Adare Heritage Centre

Adare, Co. Limerick 061 396666 www.adareheritagecentre.ie

Adare Heritage Centre is located in the heart of one of the most picturesque villages in Ireland. Located in County Limerick on the Wild Atlantic Way this heritage village is renowned as a picture postcard where traditional thatched cottages meet ancient stone walls.

Adare Heritage is at the heart of this community offering visitors an exciting range of facilities for almost 20 years. Visitors can browse some beautiful local craft shops or dine in the onsite café, which serves a selection of fresh homemade produce.

The friendly team are on hand to provide information on what's happening locally or book guided tours of the historic town and the 13th century Desmond Castle. **Location:** Adare Village, County

Limerick, Wild Atlantic Way. Information: Map of Adare Village, Fáilte Ireland information point, What to see and do locally. Adare Heritage Cente

Local Guides: Tours available, Adare Village Tour, Tour of Desmond Castle. Dovecote Café: Breakfast, Light lunch, Snacks, Desserts, Homemade, Local ingredients.

Free parking: 60 car parking spaces, 8 coach bays.

Shopping: Black Abbey Crafts, Adare Woollens, Traditional Crafts, Mix of local & international crafts.

Facilities: Public toilets, Baby changing area, Wheelchair accessible, Public library.

66 In the heart of one of the most picturesque villages in Ireland.

Augustinian Friary (St. Nicholas Church) ^{061 396227}

www.adarekilmallock.org/adare This friary dates back to the 14th century and was formerly known as the 'Black Abbey' because the friars wore a black habit. Guided tours available.



Augustinian Friar



ADARE: A THRIVING VILLAGE

Around the 1820s, the Earl of Dunraven took it upon himself to design a layout for the village. He built a series of new buildings and houses including the famous thatched cottages on Main Street, which he rented to tenants. The Dunraven family has since made an incalculable contribution towards preserving and restoring sites in and around Adare as well as donating a lot of land to this end.

The 'new' Adare Manor was started in the 1830s and took over 20 years to build. Legend has it that the Earl was hobbled with gout and his wife, Lady Caroline Wyndham, urged him to take on a new project to occupy him. The result was an opulent, neo-Gothic 'calendar house.' The Earl did not live to see it finished, but his son completed the project. It remained as the family seat until 1982.

It was bought in the late eighties by the Kane family from Florida and they restored it above and beyond its prior glory. Today it is a luxury, five star hotel and part of the estate is occupied by a championship golf course. Adare Manor Resort, now owned by Limerick businessman JP

66 Becoming known as one of Ireland's most popular luxury getaway destinations McManus. The golf course, home to the PJ McManus Pro-Am, will host the Ryder Cup in 2027.

With 840 acres of parkland, sumptuous furnishings, and top class food, drink, and service, Adare Manor has won numerous awards, including Hotel of the Year at the 2018 Best of the Best Awards, and Hotel of the Year 2019 at the AA Ireland Hospitality Awards. It won #1 Resort in Europe -Condé Nast Traveler Readers Choice Awards 2019 and is home to Limerick's First Michelin Star Restaurant -The Oak Room at Adare Manor.

This has led to Adare Manor and Adare at large earning the reputation as one of Ireland's most popular luxury getaways.



NEWCASTLE WEST THRIVING ON A STRONG TRADITION

The largest town in Limerick county, except for Limerick city, Newcastle West grew up around a castle, the ruins of which are located just off the town square. The prominence of the castle is encapsulated in the name, which in Irish is "An Caisleán Nua Thiar."

The castle was built by the FitzGerald family during the 1200s, and many battles were fought in the area during the reign of Elizabeth I. In 1302, the town was sacked, and it was destroyed in 1315.

However, after years of war and conquest, the town began to blossom

again and was thriving by the 19th century. Newcastle West became especially well known for its markets, which sold everything from livestock to crafts and other goods. Hiring fairs were also popular, as farm labourers advertised themselves for work.

The motto of Newcastle West is "As Dúchas Dóchas," which can be translated as 'Our Hope Springs from our Traditions.' A town full of rich history and strong traditions, Newcastle West has continued to grow over the years, evolving into the unique and charming town it is now.



66 A town full of rich history and strong traditions

DID YOU KNOW?

Adare on the Big Screen

Adare Manor house and grounds was one of the locations used in the 1977 American comedy film, The Last Remake of Beau Geste. The film is a satire loosely based on the novel Beau Geste–a story of brothers and their misadventures in the French Foreign Legion. Although the film got mixed reviews, it had a star-studded cast including Marty Feldman, Ann Margaret, Michael York, Peter Ustinov, James Earl Jones and Spike Milligan.

The Prettiest Village in IrelandAdare is widely referred to as "theprettiest village in Ireland" and a lotof work has been done to keep it thatway. A designated heritage town, itwas the overall national winner of theIrish Tidy Towns Competition in 1976.It has maintained a stellar recordin the competition. Adare won theaward for Ireland's Best Kept SmallTown in 2008. It was the tidiest townin County Limerick in 2014, 2015-winning a gold & silver medals in2016 and 2018 respectively.

Adare's influence reaches to Antarctica

Cape Adare in Antarctica was named in honour of the third Earl of Dunraven, Edwin Richard Wyndham-Quin. It was so named by his friend, naval officer and explorer, Captain James Clark Ross, in 1841. It is in the furthest north-eastern peninsula in Victoria Land and the inhabitants are hundreds of thousands of Adélie penguins. **Fáilte** Go Caisleán

Nua

Three County Jewels - Limerick Guide

NCW: Packed Full of Cultural Flavour

Today Newcastle West has a population of close to 7,000, an increase of almost 50% over the past 25 years... a population that also reflects the increasing diversity of Ireland itself. More than 1 in 5 people now living in Newcastle West are not Irish born but have made the town their home. Now, their Irish-born children go to school in Newcastle West, work in Newcastle West, and have become a wonderful part of the singular social fabric of the town.

The streets of Newcastle West are lively, and full of places to pique the interest of visitors and locals alike. With a variety of bars, restaurants, cafés, furniture and household goods,

Newcastle West has a lot to offer. Foodies won't be disappointed by the offerings here, as Newcastle West has a number of delicious dining options. From neighbourhood favourites like Brown Morel to Asian cuisine at Arra Chinese Restaurant and guality pubgrub at Dan Cronin's Bar and Bistro. there's something for everyone. The Silver Room Restaurant is another popular spot, having been opened in 2017 by two Polish couples who originally came to work for a hotel in Adare. That year they won Newcomer of the Year in the Food and Wine Awards and more recently have expanded their restaurant.

supermarkets, and speciality shops,



Longcourt House Hotel St Mary's Rd, Rathnaneane, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick 069 25300

Experience Longcourt House Hotel, a haven for couples, families, corporate guests, and everyone in between! Ideally located in Newcastle West on the N21 between Limerick and Killarney, our hotel boasts 39 newly refurbished rooms have been designed and decorated to create a warm and relaxing atmosphere for every guest who stays with us. Our rooms allow for restful sleep at night, and blissful comfort throughout the day. Our wide variety of rooms to choose from can cater to any experience our guests wish to have. Each room is fitted with crisp linen, luxurious throws, and plush pillows. Our award-winning cuisine showcases local ingredients, delivering

exceptional flavours in every dish. Savour signature cocktails crafted by our bartenders. Our recently renovated building seamlessly blends modern comforts with a vibrant ambience. Our attentive staff ensures flawless service, making your stay truly extraordinary. Longcourt House Hotel is more than cosy accommodation; it's an unforgettable experience. Escape to our sanctuary, where luxury, fine dining, and relaxation await. Book your stay today and create cherished memories.

66 Escape to our sanctuary, where luxury, fine dining, and relaxation await



Newcastle West Golf Club is an 18 Hole Championship Golf Course. designed by Dr Arthur Spring and built to the highest possible standards. It sits on the rolling landscape of the former estate of William Smith O'Brien, Irish Nationalist MP, and a leader of the Young Ireland Movement. The fairways weave their way through mature woods, old majestic trees, past babbling brooks and shimmering lakes. However, visitors are cautioned against overindulging in the striking beauty and sniffing the abundant flowers and wild garlic en route, as this sleeping giant will provide a stern test to golfers of all levels.

As you enter the home strait, after cautiously meandering through the verdant fairways and grappling with the undulating greens, you may experience a sense of regret that your sojourn is coming to its conclusion. Addressing your ball on the 18th tee box will demand your full concentration as the splendid 150-year-old clubhouse will also be striving for your attention. The 18th hole will demand a drive that's long and straight - every golfer's dream. If, and when, you manage to deliver the goods, you will need another long and straight one to get home in two. By then you will be required to battle a further distraction - the wonderful aroma of haute cuisine wafting from the Longcourt managed clubhouse.

After a reinvigorating shower in the newly refurbished changing rooms. you will be faced with a pleasurable choice: enjoying a wonderful alfresco meal in the picturesque courtyard or tucking into a sumptuous repast in the comfort of the splendid clubhouse. There was great excitement in the club when Longcourt House Hotel decided to bring their multiaward-winning culinary expertise to the club. Since then, numerous accolades for excellence have been added to their impressive collection: #GGI2022MunsterBestClubHouse Restaurant

#YesChef2022GolfClubRestaurantOf TheYear

Golfers determined to hone their skills, can avail of the floodlit seven bay driving range, where one bay is equipped with the most up-todate video analysis equipment. The teaching and analytics are carried out under the watchful eye of head professional, lan Colleran. For hackers like myself who are occasionally plagued by the dreaded putting yips; do not fret, a loop of the manicured practice putting green – once again under the direction of lan – will have you sinking the dreaded four-footers from every angle.

Green fees are available, at reasonable rates, to visitors and tourists from far and wide, and societies are most welcome. The bar and restaurant are also open daily – offering a wide variety of tasty food dishes – including an A La Carte menu. The general public can also avail of these magnificent facilities. Newcastle West members pride themselves on being considered Munster's Friendliest Golf Club.

For further information: Phone +353 (0)69 76500; Email: info@newcastlewestgolf.com You can also follow the club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. #MunstersFriendliestGolfClub #BestHiddenGemInMunster





The town of Kilmallock has scarcely altered since medieval times. It still lies within the narrow oblong area once enclosed by the town walls: and its medieval streets are also the streets of today. All this wonderful heritage of stone being sufficient to prompt one traveller to describe the town as "the Baalbek of Ireland".

66 A walled town of ecclesiastical origin

There are a number of places to visit in Kilmallock Town. John's Castle was built in the 15th Century. This is located near the Town Wall, and the best stretch of this extends for about 400 metres, from the rear of Catholic Church to Blossom Gate.

Kilmallock is a walled town of ecclesiastical origin, a monastery having been founded here by St. Maloch in the 6th century, of which the original round tower still remains. Other tourist attractions of note include the Church of Saint Peter and Paul, Dominican Friary, Fenian Monument, Market Cross, Collegiate Church, and the Famine Memorial Park.

Located in the town is Friars' Gate. this former cinema is now one of the most intimate theatres in Ireland. It stages a variety of theatrical, musical and dramatic events.



66 An important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development

An important attraction is the Cottage Museum and Information Centre housing a collection of local artefacts, mostly from the 19th and 20th century. Parts of the historic Kilmallock Town Wall are visible again for the first time in generations following the completion of the Kilmallock West Wall Walkway project. More than 500 metres of the Kilmallock Town Wall have been conserved and a walkway

The Best Of Ireland Series

has been created along the route, allowing locals and visitors alike to experience the wall for the first time. Until recently, the wall had been on private property.





Kilmallock was an important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development from the 13th through to the 17th centuries, a history that is evident through the rich architectural heritage and national monuments around the town.

66 Visitors to the West Wall Walkway will be seeing the same landscape as those centuries ago

The original circuit of the town's defences was 1,700 metres and of this, about 1.200 metres remains standing. Elsewhere the Kilmallock Town Wall is still represented by a boundary wall and everywhere it still serves as a boundary so that even a casual glance at a modern map reveals the line of the medieval defences.

What makes this project unique is that visitors to the West Wall Walkway will be seeing the same landscape as those centuries ago, as Kilmallock has never really expanded outside its original walled boundary.



A new pedestrian bridge in the town has been officially opened. It is located immediately downstream of the existing road bridge on the Limerick Road close to the Fire Station. The new bridge provides a dedicated

crossing point for pedestrians over the beautiful River Loobagh at the entrance to Kilmallock. It provides a greatly improved link from the town and hugely increased safety to the recently developed Riverside Walk.



Useful Information

TOURISM:

Limerick City Seasonal Tourist Information Centre King John's Castle, Nicholas St, Limerick 1800 230330

Adare Tourist Office Main Street, Adare, Limerick 061 396255

EMERGENCY:

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 382940

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

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

Limerick - Dublin-Cork-Galway 091 564164 www.citylink.ie

Parnell Street

www.irishrail.ie

www.buseireann.ie

061 315555

City Link

TRANSPORT:

Colbert Station (Bus & Train)

MEDICAL:

University Hospital Limerick Dooradoyle, V94 F858 061 301111

Shannon Doc (Out of hours GP service) 0818 123 500

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?

The 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 consisted of brothers, 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 Argue, 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 finished and released in 2019. The album, In The End, went on to be nominated 62nd Grammy Awards for Best Rock Album.

OTHER:

General Post Office Lower Cecil Street 061 212 055

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

If you want to visit attractions in neighbouring counties, there are many options within reasonable driving distance.

Euriher Afield

The Best Of Ireland Series

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 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.

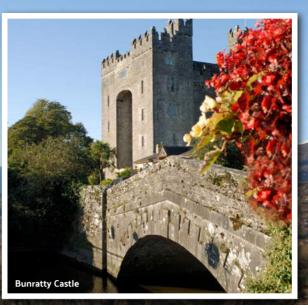
The Cliffs of Moher are over 200 metres high and run for over eight kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean. Over 30,000 pairs of seabirds, including several protected species, nest at the Cliffs of Moher. The Burren has many historical and archaeological sites including ringforts and dolmens as well as 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 067 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.



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 audiovisual show and exhibitions. Guided tours are available but visitors are advised to check times etc.

Scattery Island Kilrush, Co. Clare 085 2505512 / 085 2505514

Just one hour from Limerick city and located on the Wild Atlantic Way, just off Kilrush in Co. Clare, Scattery Island has a fascinating history, and was once the home of legendry monsters, medieval saints, Irish chieftains, Vikings, adventurers' raiders and traders. The island features a wealth of historic sites, including five Churches, a Cathedral, a magnificent Round Tower, Napoleonic War Artillery Battery and a working Lighthouse.

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, onetime 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.

Explore Limerick with the Discover Limerick Pass

The official sightseeing pass for Limerick city and county

The Discover Limerick PASS is the official sightseeing pass for Limerick city and county offering access to the top 14 attractions for ONE great price.

Convenient and easy to use, the Discover Limerick PASS is available for instant download to a smartphone.

All the visitor has to do, is purchase a single day pass, two day pass or a three day pass on www.discoverlimerickpass.com, download the pass and start exploring. Child passes are also available.

The pass provides a ready-made itinerary for visitors to Limerick and showcases a fantastic range of experiences, including culture and heritage sites, outdoor adventures as well as food and drink. These include; King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral, The Hunt Museum and Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum.

Limerick is an extremely compact city and it's easy to walk from one attraction to another quickly, while the county attractions are very accessible through a good roads network.

The Discover Limerick Pass offers access to the top attractions in Limerick for a total price lower than paying for each attraction individually. **66** The Discover Limerick Pass offers access to the top attractions in Limerick for a total price lower than paying for each attraction individually.

DISCOVER

OFFICIAL LIMERICK

0

How Does It Work?

- 1. Buy Purchase your Discover Limerick PASS online. Choose either a 1-day, 2-day or 3-day pass.
- 2. Download your Pass to your smartphone for use straight away or when you are ready to use it.
- Explore Then simply show your Pass the admission desk or payment point for each attraction to gain entry.



What Is Included? The Discover Limerick PASS includes entry to 14 top attractions:

King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral, The Hunt Museum and Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum, The People's Museum of Limerick, The Historic Whiskey Tour, Lough Gur Heritage Centre & Lakeshore Park, Adare Heritage Tour, Treaty City Brewery, Limerick Greenway Bike Hire, Adare Walks, Limerick Civic Trust, The Wild Geese Museum and Limerick Walking Tour.



Please visit www.discoverlimerickpass.com to buy your Limerick PASS

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Sounty Map



PLEASE NOTE: This map indicates approximate locations only and does not illustrate all minor roads

Discover a Hidden Gem



Lough Gur Visitor Centre & Lakeshore Park Lough Gur, Co. Limerick 061 385186 www.loughgur.com

Located just 21 km south east of Limerick city visitors will find one of Ireland's most important archaeological attractions surrounded by a breathtaking landscape. When you go to Lough Gur you are visiting the only site in Ireland with visible evidence of every age of humankind spanning 9,000 years, from the Mesolithic Age to modern times. Here you will also discover Limerick's largest natural lake of significance.

Within the award-winning lakeshore park you will find a quaint thatched Visitor Centre that interprets the rich heritage associated with this internationally renowned site. Guides on site weave together the story of Lough Gur using evidence left behind by ancient ancestors.

Along with history, there is a wealth of folklore that is brought to life through interactive elements and audio points. For younger visitors, there is an indoor archaeological dig with activity sheets and an outdoor hillside playground with scenic lake views.

Overall visitors to Lough Gur will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquility of this historic place, its expansive lake and undulating hills. From this idyllic location, you will discover Ireland's largest and oldest stone circle located 5kms from the lakefront. Before you depart, take time to enjoy refreshments and fresh organic coffee from our lakeshore kiosk or take a while to recharge atop the Lough Gur Limekiln seating area overlooking the Lough.

66 The beauty, charm and tranquility of this historic place its expansive lake and undulating hills To add to your experience visitors can opt to take part in pre-booked natural pursuits including kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, and bird-watching. Bespoke outdoor tours are available on request. Tours offer insights into ancient dwellings, megalithic tombs, crannogs and castles. School tours are catered for throughout the year.

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, €5, senior citizen/student, €4, children, €3 and a family ticket is €15. Go to www.loughgur.com for further information.



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City Map

Restaurants & Cafés •

30. Luigi's Traditional Fish & Chips

29. Texas Steakout

32. Vincenzo Grill House

33. Hamptons Bar & Grill **34.** Chicken Hut

36. Off the Bone Gastropub

31. Sodalicious

35. Gusto d'Italia

38. The Curry House

39. Sextons Pizza Bar

37. La Piccola

Pubs •

40. Bobby Byrnes

42. Flannery's Bar

43. Myles Breen's

44. W.J. South's

41. The Glen Tavern

45. The Old Quarter

46. Mickey Martin's

49. 101 Limerick

52. The Locke Bar

57. House Limerick

58. The Top House

53. Horse and Hound Bar 54. Collins Bar & Restaurant

56. No. 3 Bar & Restaurant

Accommodation

60. Bedford Townhouse

59. Old Quarter Townhouse & Café

48. Phil Flannery's Bar

47. Dolan's Pub and Restaurant

50. The Commercial / The Record Room 51. Katie Daly's Heritage Pub & Kitchen

55. Mother Macs / Whiskey Experience



History & Heritage •

- 1. Limerick County Council
- 2. Limerick Civic Trust
- St. Mary's Cathedral
 The Treaty Stone

Education •

- 5. University of Limerick
- 6. Technological University
- of the Shannon (TUS) 7. Mary Immaculate College
- 8. Limerick Clare Education & Training Board

Arts & Culture •

- 9. University Concert Hall
- 10. Lime Tree Theatre
- **11.** Limerick City Gallery of Art
- 12. The Hunt Museum
- 13. People's Museum of Limerick
- 14. King John's Castle
- 15. Belltable
- 16. International Rugby Experience

Activities 9

- 17. Parnell Plaza Entertainment Venue
- Roma Casino
- **19.** Paddy Wagon Tours
- 20. Limerick Greyhound Stadium

Shopping •

- 21. The Milk Market
- 22. Crescent Shopping Centre
- 23. Connolly Man
- 24. M. Cahill & Son
- 25. Sexton for Men
- 26. Michael Gleeson
- 27. The Wine Buff
- 28. Skin 26



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