

LIMERICK CITY LOOP WALK

- Distance: 3.8 km
- Start/End: Bedford Row/O'Connell St. junction

Soak up the sights, sounds and fascinating history on a journey through time in Limerick City! This Slí na Sláinte route extends along Limerick's main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street and passes through the leafy Georgian Quarter before looping back to the heart of the city centre.

The looped walk connects Limerick's celebrated Georgian architectural heritage with the city's contemporary urban design, offering a rich mix of old and new along the route!

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LIMERICK CITY LOOP WALK Points of Interest

1 Richard Harris Monument, Bedford Row

Did you know that Harry Potter's Dumbledore hails from Limerick? A bronze statue by sculptor Jim Connolly commemorates actor Richard Harris who played Hogwarts' wizard headmaster in the first two films, the second of which was his final success. Harris's other notable films include Gladiator, Camelot, This Sporting Life and The Field.

2 St. Augustine's Church, O'Connell Street

One of Limerick's landmark buildings with a strong street presence, St. Augustine's Church was built in 1942. The original lintel stone from the Augustinian order's first chapel at Fish Lane, which dates back to 1633, was inserted into the wall of the present-day church over 300 years later!

3 International Rugby Experience, O'Connell Street

Voted Ireland's favourite building at the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2023, this seven-storey structure celebrates what it takes to become a rugby legend, via a fully interactive, audio-visual visitor experience. Designed by architect Niall McLaughlin, the redbrick and concrete façade complements the Georgian streetscape while the glazed top floor 'Legend's Gallery', offers amazing 360-degree views across Limerick!

4 'Ruck & Puck' Monument, O'Connell St.

Sport is woven into the fabric of Limerick. Paying tribute to Limerick's sporting prowess in hurling and rugby, the prominent Ruck and Puck bronze statue by sculptor Robin Buick, stands proudly against the towering backdrop of the International Rugby Experience along Limerick's main thoroughfare.

5 Sarsfield Credit Union, Glentworth St.

Referred to locally as 'The Stone Jug', the stout columned temple-style building, constructed in the mid-19th Century, has had a long-standing association with financial institutions. Originally designed to house Limerick Savings Bank, the building's neoclassical style was seen to demonstrate power, status and stability - essential in a bank! Keep your eyes peeled for a decorative gargoyle feature perched on the top right cornice.

6 Tait Clock, Baker Place

A prominent landmark in Limerick's streetscape, this Gothic-style four-faced clock tower was built to honour Alderman Peter Tait. Believed to be one of

the most flamboyant and entrepreneurial figures ever to have held the office of Mayor of Limerick, he established Tait's Clothing Factory during the 1850's, supplying military uniforms during the Crimean War. The clock tower was designed by William Edward Corbett who also designed the pedestal on which the Treaty Stone sits!

7 Limerick City Gallery of Art

In the heart of Georgian Limerick overlooking the verdant People's Park, stands the iconic Carnegie building, now home to Limerick City Gallery of Art, one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Ireland. The gallery is home to a vast collection of Irish artworks and regularly showcases an eclectic mix of classic and contemporary visual arts from national and international artists, making every visit unique!

8 People's Park

Originally a key-holders only park for residents living in the nearby Georgian houses, People's Park was opened to the public in 1877. A free-standing limestone column, topped with a statue of Thomas Spring Rice, was erected in 1829 for the then M.P. for the City of Limerick. Other historical structures of interest include a bandstand built in 1895, a refurbished ornate drinking fountain and two gazebos.

9 Pery Square

Limerick is home to the largest collection of Georgian townhouses in Ireland outside of Dublin, many of which are evident in Pery Square. Ornate balconies, decorative ironwork, door knockers, boot scrapers, capitals and fanlights are to be seen throughout Georgian Limerick, and an original gas lamp standard from 1840 still stands on the corner of Pery Square and Hartstonge Street! Every May, thousands of people gather at Pery Square, the starting point for one of Limerick's biggest mass participation sporting events, the Great Limerick Run!

10 The People's Museum of Limerick, Pery Square

Restored by Limerick Civic Trust in recent years, no. 2 is one of six houses built under the Pery Square Tontine Company in the 1830's - the last Georgian terraced houses built in the city. Custom-made metal coal-hole covers featuring decorative shell patterns and the initials P.S. were set in the pavement

outside to allow coal deliveries to the cellars below. This former private residence is now home to a fascinating museum - a labyrinth of Limerick history with an eclectic collection of items.

11 The Crescent, O'Connell Avenue

Taking its name from the buildings either side, which gives the street a distinctive oval shape, the Crescent is one of the highlights of Georgian Limerick. On the west side sits the 160-year old Church of the Sacred Heart, breaking the uniformity of the terrace. A monument erected in 1857 honours Daniel O'Connell who was instrumental in Ireland's fight for independence. O'Connell is represented as a Roman in a toga looking towards the street named after him.

12 Souths, Quinlan Street

Recognised by many from Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Angela's Ashes and subsequent film adaptation, Souths Bar gained notoriety as the place where McCourt famously had his first pint!

13 Limerick Turkish Baths, St. Gerard Street

Turkish Baths once located on O'Connell Avenue (known then as Military Road) extended around to St. Gerard Street. Established in 1859, the baths were initially available to paying citizens who could afford such a service but were later available to the working class to promote personal hygiene and reduce medical costs. The baths appear to have closed down in the late 1880s, and the building demolished shortly after, leaving behind a solitary pillar, offering a glimpse into part of the city's rich history!

14 Municipal Technical Institute, O'Connell Avenue

Known locally as the Red Tech, the Municipal Technical Institute opened in 1911 following an architectural competition by the Limerick Technical Instruction Committee to erect a purpose-built technical school. Prior to its opening, 738 students were educated in seven different buildings in the city for mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mathematics, physics, chemistry, dressmaking, millinery and tailors' work. The building is now home to the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

15 Punches Cross

1930's Limerick saw the city streets filled with racing cars for the eagerly anticipated Limerick Grand

Prix! Starting on William Street, the 4.44km 'track' continued to Punches Cross before looping back along O'Connell Avenue and down O'Connell Street. The first race, known as 'Round the Houses', was won by British race car driver Luis Fontés who was driving an Alfa Romeo.

16 Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road

Founded in 1898 to train schoolteachers, Mary Immaculate College's student population has grown from 75 students in 1901 to 5,000 students today! The leafy 25-acre campus combines architecture from past and present, with the original Foundation Building still a central focus, lending a historic charm. The college is also home to the Lime Tree Theatre, a 510-seater premier arts venue.

17 The Red Church, Lower Mallow Street

Once a Presbyterian church, the prettily designed red-bricked building, which appears to fall away from the road, is one of two churches in Limerick referred to as 'the sinking church', the second being St. Michael's Church in Pery Square.

18 Gardens International, Henry Street

Originally built in 1808 at the height of the Georgian era, the stunning building formed part of merchant and banker William Roche's rooftop 'Hanging Gardens'. Used as a warehouse for tobacco, whiskey and wine, Roche stored goods for people until duty was paid. The hanging gardens' terraces are believed to have once housed exotic fruits, flowers and an impressive range of vegetables!

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