

EXPLORE THE SHANNON ESTUARY WAY



Shannon Estuary... The Story

The Shannon Estuary is a spectacular and unspoilt estuary located just off the Wild Atlantic Way. This area of remarkable natural beauty is where Ireland's longest river – the mighty Shannon flows into the azure water of the Atlantic Ocean. Along the Shannon Estuary drive, you will find delightful towns, pretty villages and world famous shore fishing sites.

Limerick city has a variety of activities to keep visitors entertained. From history & heritage, sports & activity to arts & culture, there is always plenty to do day and night in the city.

To commence this picture postcard Estuary drive, depart Limerick along the N69 road. You will experience the many villages and townlands in West County Limerick including Mungret, Clarina, Pallaskenry, Askeaton, Foynes and Glin. Mungret village is only a short distance from Limerick city. The importance of the monastic site here is said to be comparable to that of Clonmacnoise, and the site has been identified as one of the most important Early Christian monasteries in North Munster.

Bleach Lough is a 55 acre spring lake along the route, here anglers can access the lake via shore or by boat. Located just outside Pallaskenry village it offers anglers some of the very best fishing in the country. The ancient town of Askeaton is a popular spot for history lovers and boasts one of the most complete ruins of a mediaeval abbey in the country. Next stop is Foynes village and port, home to the Flying Boat Museum, Foynes Yacht Club, a 17 acre amenity area. Here you can relive the pioneering days of transatlantic aviation in the Flying Boat Museum and learn how to make the world famous Irish Coffee drink.

A short drive will take you to the picturesque village of Glin with a number of heritage sites to explore. Make sure to include a visit to one of the many gardens along the route especially in the Spring and Summer when the gardens are in full bloom.

Further west, just over the Kerry border in Tarbert, board the Shannon Ferry for the short crossing to Killimer in County Clare.

While crossing, keep an eye out for the bottlenose dolphins that live in the waters of the estuary, especially during the summer months when you might be lucky enough to spot some of the calves (baby dolphins). From Killimer to Ennis, make sure to stop off along the way and chat to the locals in villages Labasheeda, Killadysert, Ballynacally, and Clarecastle. You'll find some of the best story tellers in the county, relating stories of monks arriving from Europe, early river transport systems, Hollywood stars, local traditions and the area's most famous story of them all, the 'Colleen Bawn'. Further east from Killadysert Pier you can charter a boat for fishing trips in the Shannon Estuary. From the village pier you can see some of the many islands that lie in the estuary.

The Picturesque village of Clarecastle, the historic village and port of Clare makes a perfect stopover stop off for a breath-taking view of the River Fergus tidal Estuary before beginning the next leg of your journey. Turning south consider taking a detour to the village of Quin and step back in time to explore Quin Abbey and Irish life during the bronze age at Craggaunowen. The drive will take you past Shannon International Airport which has been connecting the west of Ireland with the world for over 70 years.

Next stop is Bunratty Castle and Folk Village one of Ireland's favourite tourist destinations. Here you can immerse yourself in rural and urban life dating back to 19th century Victorian Ireland while 15th century Bunratty Castle reveals the power struggles of the McNamara and O'Brien clans. A short drive south brings you to Cratloe Woods where you can stretch your legs and admire the expansive views of Limerick City.

Route can be travelled in any direction and from any starting point.

Ennis... Gateway Town



Ennis is at the beating heart of Clare, a County renowned for traditional Irish music. The atmospheric, winding medieval streets of this historic market town reveal intriguing characters and stories that shaped its history and are brought to life by local walking tours departing from the tourist office. Ennis is home to some wonderful attractions such as the Ennis Friary, Ennis Cathedral and Clare Museum. If you have an hour to spare follow the town's Sculpture Trail or stroll along the River Fergus through the town.

You won't have to look hard to find some live traditional music – be it a spontaneous session in a local pub or a concert at Glor Theatre. You won't be disappointed with a visit to this beautiful market Town, known as "Ireland's Friendliest Town"

www www.clare.ie www www.visitennis.com

Did you know...

Dolphins are not the first thing a visitor to Ireland thinks of, but you may be surprised to know that the coastal waters off Clare and Kerry in the Shannon Estuary are home to many bottle-nosed Dolphins.

Did you know...

In the late 1930s, transatlantic air traffic was dominated by flying boats, and a flying boat terminal was located at Foynes on the south side of the Shannon Estuary.

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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

Things to See & Do

See map for location of each attraction

- 01 Mungret Monastic Site Mungret, Co. Limerick
- 02 Adare Franciscan Friary Adare, Co. Limerick
- 03 Trinitarian Abbey Adare, Co. Limerick
- 04 Adare Heritage Centre Adare, Co. Limerick
- 05 Desmond Castle Adare Co. Limerick
- 06 Bleach Lough Ballynacarriga, Co. Limerick
- 07 Curraghchase Forest Park Kilcornan, Co. Limerick
- 08 Stonehall Visitor Farm and Wildlife Park Curraghchase, Co. Limerick
- 09 Askeaton Desmond Castle Askeaton, Co. Limerick
- 10 Ballynacourty Gardens Askeaton, Co. Limerick
- 11 Franciscan Friary Askeaton, Co. Limerick
- 12 Desmond Hall Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
- 13 Pedal Pursuits Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
- 14 Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum Foynes, Co. Limerick
- 15 Knockpatrick Gardens Foynes, Co. Limerick
- 16 Foynes Woodland Park Foynes, Co. Limerick
- 17 Boyce Gardens Loughill, Co. Limerick
- 18 Glin Heritage Trail Glin, Co. Limerick
- 19 Tarbert Bridewell Museum Tarbert, Co. Kerry
- 20 John F. Leslie Woodland Walk Tarbert, Co. Kerry
- 21 Listowel Castle Listowel, Co. Kerry

- 22 Seanchai Kerry Writers' Museum Listowel, Co. Kerry
- 23 Lartigue Monorail & Museum Listowel, Co. Kerry
- 24 Vandeleur Walled Gardens Kilrush, Co. Clare
- 25 Scattery Island Shannon Estuary, Kilrush, Co. Clare
- 26 Kilrush Town Looped Walk Kilrush, Co. Clare
- 27 Kilcarrin Battery Labasheeda, Co. Clare
- 28 Killadysert Angling Killadysert, Co. Clare
- 29 Lissycasey Cascades Walk Lissycasey, Co. Clare
- 30 Clare Abbey Clarecastle, Co. Clare
- 31 Clare Museum Ennis, Co. Clare
- 32 Ennis Friary Ennis, Co. Clare
- 33 Quin Abbey Quin, Co. Clare
- 34 Knappogue Castle & Walled Garden Quin, Co. Clare
- 35 12 O'Clock Hills Looped Walk Kilgisheen, Co. Clare
- 36 Craggaunowen Kilmurry (near Quin), Co. Clare
- 37 Mooghaun Hill Fort & Woods Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare
- 38 Shannon Estuary Looped Walk Shannon, Co. Clare
- 39 Atlantic Air Venture Shannon, Co. Clare
- 40 Bunratty Castle Bunratty, Co. Clare
- 41 Ballymorris Pottery Cratloe, Co. Clare
- 42 Cratloe Woods Cratloe, Co. Clare

Limerick... Gateway City



Limerick is built around a medieval core on King's Island and has a charter older than that of London. However, it's also considered a vibrant, bustling modern city that continuously reinvents itself which surprises the visitor with every stay!

From the medieval quarter at King's Island with its cathedral, museum and renovated King John's Castle, to the elegant splendour of the Georgian new town, Limerick is full of historical and architectural surprises. Providing a twist on the shopping experience, the Milk Market; Ireland's oldest market, offers bustling themed market days and activities for those with an eye for environmentalism, while the art connoisseur can peep at Picasso and relax with Renoir at the Hunt Museum.

Limerick City is also home to some of the very best stadia and sporting infrastructure in Ireland including Thomond Park Stadium, home of Munster Rugby team, the Gaelic Grounds, the University of Limerick Sports Arena and the recently developed Limerick Greyhound Stadium. Visitors to the city can now enjoy a trip on a kayak – tours are arranged throughout the day at all times of year. Walking tours are also plentiful in Limerick and the compact design of the city means you will discover a lot on a short journey. No matter how long or short your visit, there is a wealth of attractions and activities for you to enjoy in Limerick city.

www www.limerick.ie

Family Friendly Playgrounds...



All family friendly playgrounds are **FREE** to use

- 01 Adare
- 02 Abbeyfeale
- 03 Askeaton
- 04 Ballynacally
- 05 Clarecastle
- 06 Clarina
- 07 Cratloe
- 08 Curraghchase
- 09 Foynes
- 10 Glin
- 11 Kildysart
- 12 Labasheeda
- 13 Lissycasey
- 14 Newmarket on Fergus
- 15 Newcastlewest
- 16 Pallaskenry
- 17 Quin
- 18 Shannon
- 19 Tarbert