

a guide to county carlow



Borris Village



Kayaking on the River Barrow



Altamont Gardens



VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Arts



Brownshill Dolmen



Walking on the Blackstairs Mountains



Duckett's Grove Historic House and Gardens



Barrow Way and River Barrow near Borris



Carlow County Museum

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This publication contains details which readers are advised to check in the context of COVID-19 restrictions as opening times and dates may vary significantly. To check for further information readers can refer to the websites and social media pages of individual premises. The social media pages of Carlow Tourism are also updated regularly.

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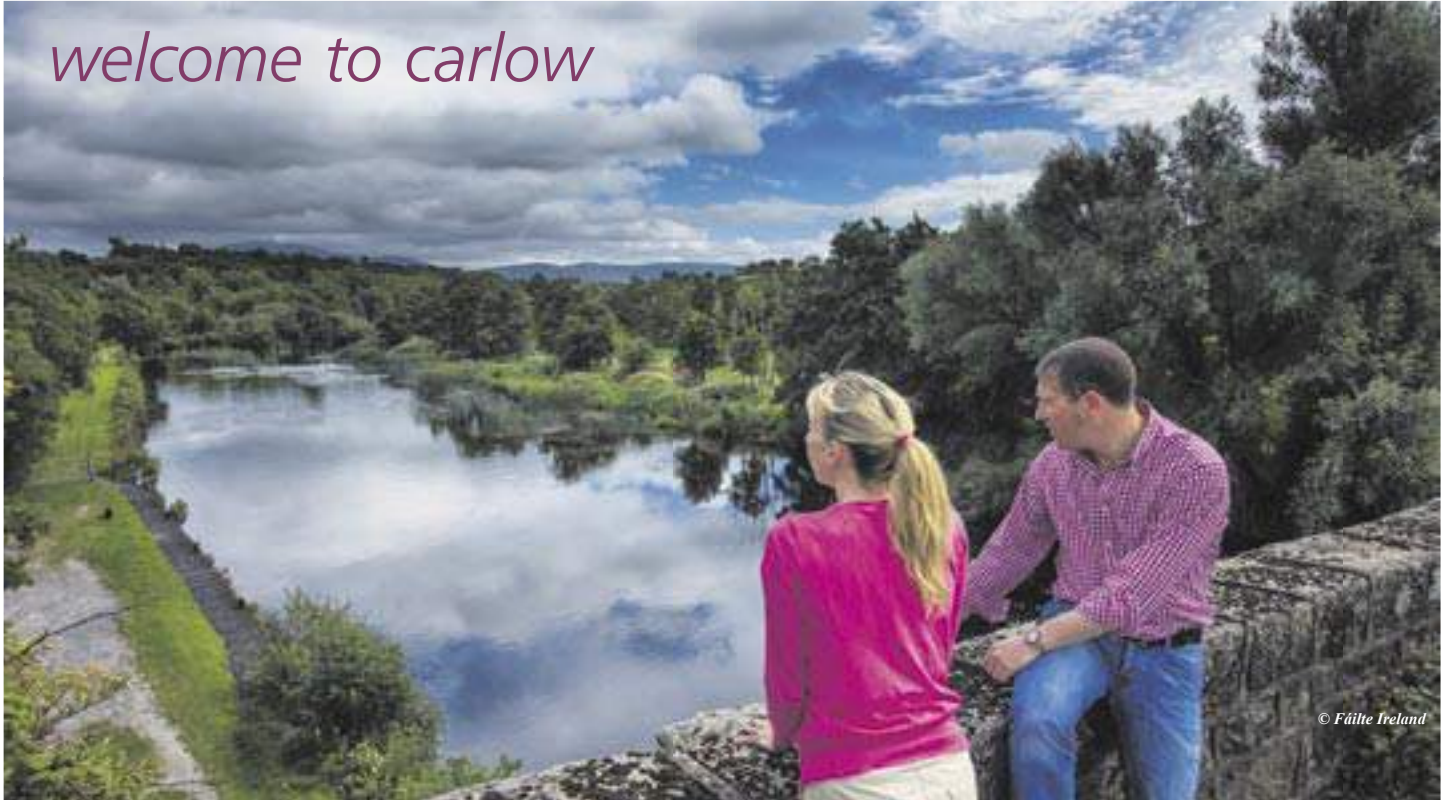
N.B. Please observe all social distancing and other guidelines issued by the HSE in respect of the Coronavirus. More details can be found at: www2.hse.ie/coronavirus



Carlow Tourism is supported by Carlow County Council, members of the tourism sector, Fáilte Ireland, Carlow LCDC/CCDP and the Department of Social Protection



welcome to carlow



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The River Barrow and Barrow Way walking route near Borris.

If you cross the River Barrow at Wellington Bridge, to the west of Carlow Town, and drive to the ridge of Killeshin, you get an overview of the vast expanse of The Barrow Valley and County Carlow stretching out before you. The scholars say the Gaelic word for Carlow meant the place of the quadrupeds. The great Irish elk once strode proudly here – the surviving antlers attest to that. Red deer roamed freely on this plain, and cattle, the currency of our ancient civilisation, abounded. Today the same Barrow Valley, termed “champagne land” by the chroniclers, is still uncluttered and unspoilt.

It still allows the visitor to commune with nature, at a safe distance, of course. You can observe the bright-coated cattle in the fields, experience the proximity of horses in their paddocks and enjoy the age-old miracle of being healed while leaning on a gate and absorbing the fresh green of pastures, or the honeyed hues of ripening grain.

This is County Carlow, a green Ireland of country roads and winding lanes, of tow-paths and waterways, of mountain trails and forest tracks which lead the visitor through a hinterland of neat friendly villages and



© Fáilte Ireland

Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal

well-ordered small towns to ancient monastic sites and archaeological wonders from another age.

Dolmens, standing stones, stone forts and burial chambers from 2,500 BC – Carlow’s ancient monuments continue to intrigue. Discover these ancient sites, tucked away in green valleys or up high on open countryside surrounded by an expanse of sky. Perhaps a moment of quiet contemplation here will provide insights into the secrets and mysteries contained within. At Brownshill close to Carlow Town, you will find Europe’s largest portal dolmen, its capstone weighing more than 100 tonnes.

Carlow is a county with an exceptionally rich spiritual and ecclesiastical heritage featuring a number of sites of national significance. These include the monastic site at St. Mullins, the Romanesque doorway at Killeslin, the medieval Cathedral at Old Leighlin, the eighteenth-century Carlow College, St. Patrick’s and the nineteenth-century Catholic Cathedral in Carlow Town as well as the idyllic Adelaide Memorial Chapel at Myshall. Carlow County Museum situated in the heart of Carlow Town, offers a fascinating glimpse into Carlow’s many layers of history and heritage.

One of the most dramatic scenic drives in County Carlow begins in the village of Myshall and takes one across the hip of Mount Leinster to the Nine Stones viewing point. It affords a stunning aerial view of the Myshall plain, dotted with comfortable homesteads, sheltered by the mountain and surrounded on three sides by gentle slopes, chequered by centuries of cultivation. Mount Leinster with its labyrinth of forest paths and hill trails deserves a day to itself!

From Mount Leinster it is a short drive to beautiful and historic Borris, seat of the McMorrough Kavanagh family whose ancestor Dermot so impressed the Normans as to the beauty of Carlow that they stayed for 800 years! Beyond Borris and Ballymurphy one can enjoy the dappled splendour of the Blackstairs Mountains as one drives to St. Mullins, the unspoilt jewel in Carlow’s crown. Strategically set in a saucer of hills and surrounded by a delightful dispersed village, the monastic enclosure holds together sixteen hundred years of local and regional history.

For a county of only 900 square kilometres, Carlow offers in close proximity a marvellous range of outdoor activities for walkers, cyclists,

watersports enthusiasts, pony trekkers, paragliders, anglers and golfers. Rathvilly and Hacketstown point eastward towards the dramatic Wicklow Hills while the Blackstairs Mountains provide a wide variety of walks for both serious hikers and leisure walkers. The Barrow Way, the great eco-spine of Carlow stretches 48km from Carlow Town to St. Mullins along Ireland’s second longest river system and is one of Ireland’s most rewarding rambles!

Garden lovers can enjoy the Carlow Garden Trail featuring nineteen gardening attractions including Altamont Gardens, the great Gothic pile at Duckett’s Grove, historic Huntington Castle in the charming village of Clonegal as well as Ireland’s best garden centre at Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven in Leighlinbridge. The trail also offers visitors the opportunity to discover and enjoy some of the spectacular manor houses that once dominated the cultural and agricultural life of County Carlow. Beyond the impressive facades of these ancestral homes, visitors can walk in the footsteps of fascinating historical figures and take in the sumptuous splendour of some of the most significant homes in Irish history. Whether you’re strolling through beautifully landscaped historical gardens or marvelling at interiors that have survived for centuries, you’ll be swept away by the magic of these very special Carlow treasures.

For those who like comfort after exercise County Carlow offers a great selection of first-class Irish Tourist Board accommodation. There are friendly pubs and excellent eateries right across the county. For culture buffs and art enthusiasts, the vibrant college town of Carlow is also home to VISUAL, one of Ireland’s leading facilities for the presentation of local, national and international contemporary visual art as well as housing a magnificent theatre comprising 350 seats. Standing in the centre of Carlow Town on the grounds of Carlow College, St. Patrick’s it rivals its contemporaries in New York, Berlin or Tokyo in terms of its scale and contemporary architecture.

Families can enjoy a perfect holiday with some fantastic activities on offer. Whether they are crawling, toddling or running, the whole family will love exploring acres of woodland parks, superb playgrounds, family entertainment venues and a host of outdoor activities suitable for all.

We have enjoyed having you in the past and we look forward to seeing you this year – make Carlow your holiday destination in 2020. Beidh fáilte romhat!

Carlow Tourism, College Street, Carlow.
t: +353 (0) 59 9130411
e: info@carlowtourism.com w: www.carlowtourism.com

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For more information on County Carlow visit the Carlow Tours app, available as a free download from the Google app Store or log onto www.carlowtourism.com



Visitors at Coolanowle Country House, one of Carlow’s many fine B&Bs.



Altamont Gardens.

Carlow has a range of exciting trails to help you delve in and really discover the county. From Ireland's first garden trail to our strong religious and spiritual heritage, there is so much to enjoy here. All trails are available as printed publications from Carlow Tourist Office, on the Carlow Tours app or to download from www.carlowtourism.com

south carlow adventure trail

Carlow's wide open spaces, mountains and valleys are ideal for the outdoors, whether for leisurely activity or a real adventure. Walk a towpath or a mountain trail, hire a river barge or canoe and kayak along the rapids of the River Barrow. If you need a relaxing break, fresh air and stimulation, Carlow is the natural choice.

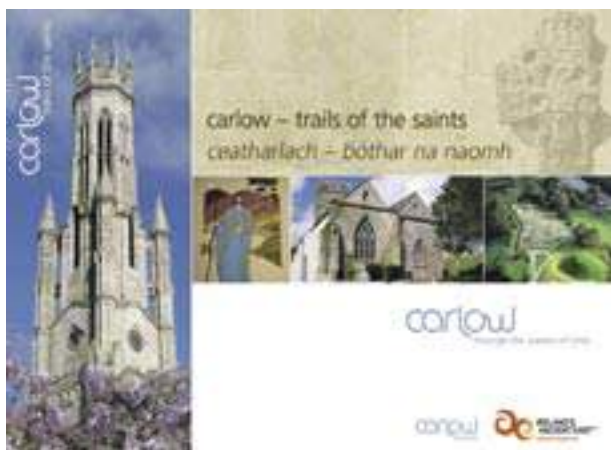
The South Carlow Adventure Trail presents the rich variety of activities in the southern stretches of the county, detailing outdoor tourism providers as well as providing maps of the Barrow Way and South Leinster Way long distance walking routes. Come and enjoy the stunning, unspoilt and often remote views of the landscape, the flora and fauna and the sense of well-being.



carlow garden trail

Carlow is a treasure trove of wonderful gardens to visit with some of the best in Ireland to be found here. The Carlow Garden Trail presents 19 garden attractions ranging from small to very large gardens, garden centres and forest parks and from old to new. Both novices and experienced gardeners are guaranteed to find something to stimulate and delight their senses.

You do not have to be a gardener to get pleasure and enjoyment from the Carlow Garden Trail. There is something for everyone, young and old. Plan your trip now. and visit www.carlowgardentrail.com



carlow – trails of the saints

This trail brings the visitor on a journey through Carlow's rich spiritual and ecclesiastical heritage in a series of three routes – St. Patrick's, St. Laserian's and St. Moling's Trails. Many sites here are deemed to be of national significance including the monastic site at St. Mullins, the medieval Cathedral of Old Leighlin, the eighteenth-century College and nineteenth-century Catholic Cathedral in Carlow Town and the exquisite Adelaide Memorial Church in Myshall. There at least 22 early saints associated with Carlow, some were born and spent their lives here, others came to be educated or to found monasteries. Columbanus, traditionally believed to have been born near Myshall, is regarded as the first great missionary in Europe where he founded many settlements including Luxeuil in France and Bobbio in Italy. Other saints associated with the area include St. Willibrord who studied at Killogran and who later became Patron Saint of Luxembourg, St. Fintan, St. Fortune and St. Moling. www.trails.carlowtourism.com



carlow food trail

The Carlow Food Trail brings Carlow's great food story together by highlighting in one publication artisan and organic producers, restaurants and large scale food manufacturers. It details the many restaurants that have built their reputations on using the best ingredients. Restaurants of all types who make it their business to feature fresh, seasonal and local food on their menus. It lists the farmers markets, farm shops and supermarkets where you can buy delicious award winning cheeses, wholesome free range and organic meat and poultry, farm fresh eggs along with locally grown seasonal fruit and vegetables.

And not forgetting the booming drinks sector with Carlow brands – Walsh Whiskey and the Carlow Brewing Company – now exporting around the world. www.carlowtourism.com/food-trail

County Carlow is convenient to the major entry points into Ireland, with Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Rosslare ferryports and Dublin Airport all within easy reach. Dublin City is 92km, Dublin Airport is 107km and Rosslare Europort is 92km from Carlow Town centre.



City (Ulster Bank, Georges Quay). Inter-county services (Monday – Friday) between Carlow, Tullow, Rathvilly, Baltinglass and Hacketstown as well as a Carlow – Portlaoise service via Athy, and Carlow – Kilkenny twice daily. All coaches offer free Wi-Fi, extra comfort seats, free charging points and even better value when booking your ticket online by availing of 10% OFF here: www.jjkavanagh.ie All coaches are Fáilte Ireland approved and available for all types of private hire including day trips, festivals and sporting events. You can get your free quote by calling 0818 333 222.



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RAIL: Eight services operate to Carlow Town from Dublin Heuston (and nine return) on a daily basis Monday – Friday, eight services on Saturday and four services on Sunday. t: 059-9131633 w: www.irishrail.ie

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bike rental and bike tours

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e: info@barrowline.ie
w: www.barrowwaybikes.ie



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HOW TO FIND US: In the village of Vicarstown. **OPENING TIMES:** Year round. **RATES:** Adults €20 per day, children €10 per day, electric bikes – four hours €25, one day €45. Longer hire also available.



Barrow Blueway Bike Hire

t: 086-8954961
e: info@kilkennycyclingtours.com



Mobile bike hire delivery service everywhere between Athy, Carlow Town, Bagenalstown, Graiguenamanagh and St. Mullins. With over 200 bikes, large groups, events and individuals are catered for. If organising a school trip or exploring the beautiful scenic River Barrow with friends and family contact us and a tailored cycle route with a support vehicle will be provided.

Bikes must be pre-booked to avoid disappointment. Bike hire depots also available at Sullivan's Brewing Company, John Street, Kilkenny; 1 Davitt's Quay, Dungarvan; Main Street, Kilmacthomas along the Waterford Greenway and in Tramore. Guided and self-guided cycling tours and bike hire service.



Graiguenamanagh Bike Hire

Waterside Guesthouse,
Graiguenamanagh,
Co. Kilkenny.
GPS: 52.540231, -6.953942
t: 059-9724246/086-4084008
e: bike&hike@watersideguesthouse.com
w: www.watersideguesthouse.com



Graiguenamanagh Bike Hire offers bike rental and bike tours from Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch in the beautiful Barrow River Valley. We are the longest established operator in the Barrow Valley and we know the Barrow towpath better than anyone else. Perfect for groups, families or couples to explore the river towpath and discover wildlife, scenery and peace, hidden away along a traffic free greenway.

Graiguenamanagh Bike Hire basecamp is located at the famous Waterside Guesthouse and provides a cosy room with a river view as well as a superb dining experience in the ground floor restaurant. The towpath stretches for miles in either direction, drop-off and pick-up service available. **HOW TO FIND US:** In the town of Graiguenamanagh. **OPENING TIMES:** Year round. **RATES:** Adults €20 per day, €15 per half day, children €15 per day, €10 per half day. 20% discount rate for guests of Waterside Guesthouse.



canoeing

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Paddle Your Own Canoe offers you the opportunity to rent a canoe and camping gear and organise your multi-day trip down the River Barrow. With trails between Monasterevin in County Kildare and New Ross in County Wexford it is possible to paddle for up to six days passing through beautiful countryside, villages, towns and historical sites. **FACILITIES:** Transport to/from the start/finish of each tour, canoes and all safety gear, dry bags and barrels, tents and other camping needs. **OPEN:** Year round.



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Graiguenamanagh,
Co. Kilkenny.
GPS: 52.539363, -6.953981
t: 087-2265550
e: info@pureadventure.ie
w: www.pureadventure.ie



Pure Adventure is based in the heart of the Barrow Valley in the picturesque town of Graiguenamanagh. Located on the banks of the River Barrow, Pure Adventure offers a range of activities that include exhilarating white water kayaking trips, scenic canoe tours and chilled out Stand Up Paddle Board adventures along with a range of team building activities and guided walks.

Pure Adventure also offers a complete range of Canoeing Ireland skills courses from beginners to advanced. All activities can be tailored to your group's needs and desires. Full equipment is supplied, all you need to do is book in. Come join us for an adventure you will never forget.



horse riding

Carrigbeg Riding Stables
Carrigbeg,
Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow.
R21 RF86
t: 059-9721962/087-9372317
e: carrigbeg@gmail.com
Contact: Susan Patterson BHSII

Riding lessons available for children and adults from beginners to competition level. Features indoor and outdoor arena and cross country course. Cross country jumping for experienced riders. No trekking. Advance booking essential.
HOW TO FIND US: L7004, 800 metres off the R724 Bagenalstown-Myshall Road.
OPEN: January 3rd – December 23rd. Closed Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays and August Bank Holiday week.
RATES PER HOUR: children (over 6 and under 16 years of age) €22. Adults €25. Groups of six or more: reduction available.



swimming pool

Bagenalstown Swimming Pool
Leighlinbridge Road,
Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow.
GPS: 52.71091, -6.954722
Open early June-late August
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.,
2.30 – 5 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m.



Bagenalstown Swimming Club is a long established voluntary club located in idyllic surroundings adjacent to the River Barrow. An ideal destination for all age groups to enjoy swimming activities in geo-thermally heated pools. A paddling pool offers younger swimmers the chance to get confident with water, the 25m pool allows all swimmers to progress and enjoy swimming in a relaxed, outdoor environment. The club also offers swimming lessons, summer camps, water safety classes, river races and swimming galas. Open early June – late Aug with seasonal membership and casual rates. All are welcome.



mountain adventures

Mountain Adventures 74
Killcross,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
t: 087-9691193
e: aeacom@gmail.com/
info@mountainadventures74.com



new 2020 Mountain Adventures 74 is a multilingual outdoor company located just outside Tullow offering guided day hikes and climbing sessions in the Wicklow Mountains, Mount Leinster, the Blackstairs, Comeragh, Galtymore and weekend guided hikes to Kerry, Connemara, Donegal, the Mourne Mountains and all over Ireland. They run mountain skills for people to hike on their own safely and the courses are in the Bunclody and Blessington areas. Fully insured and qualified as mountain leaders for Ireland and the UK with REC 3 first aid qualification. For more information contact their website, facebook or instagram. Welcome to where the adventure begins.



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The Blackstairs Mountains and Mount Leinster

walking in carlow – valleys, vales and views

If you are in need of a relaxing break, wide open spaces, fresh air and stimulation, then Carlow is the natural choice for a walking trip – the opportunities are endless! Catering for everyone from the casual walker to the veteran hiker, Carlow is a treasure trove of walking routes.

Looped walks are located throughout the county at Oak Park Forest Park and Clogrennane Wood, both close to Carlow Town, Kilbrannish North and South Forests on the Blackstairs Mountains, Clashganny Forest, south of Borris and Bahana Forest near the village of St. Mullins.

Flat walking is available along the beautiful Barrow Way and hiking for the more adventurous along the scenic South Leinster and Wicklow Ways. The 113km-long Barrow Way starts in County Kildare and follows the towpath alongside Ireland's second longest river to the monastic village of St. Mullins in south Carlow. Enjoy the surrounding landscape, scenic mountains, and a rich expanse of woodlands. The South Leinster Way runs from Kildavin in east Carlow as far as Carrick-on-Suir in County Tipperary. It features the majestic Mount Leinster, the highest hill in the Blackstairs Mountains (795m), and stunning views of Brandon Hill and the Barrow Valley. From Kildavin to Borris and onwards to Graiguenamanagh, the route is rich in flora and fauna. The Wicklow Way ends in the Carlow village of Clonegal. En route, it passes mountain lakes, rolling countryside and the beautiful Glendalough Valley. From Clonegal, the South Leinster Way is a short distance of 3km from its start in nearby Kildavin.

Discovering Carlow does not have to involve a budget – there are plenty of free and fun things to experience and explore. It is a privilege to feel the elation of exertion here, the sense of achievement, the stunning, unspoilt and often remote views of the landscape, the flora and fauna and the sense of well-being.



Clogrennane Wood near Carlow Town.

do it the barrow way

The Barrow Way follows the towpath, originally a path alongside the River Barrow where horses pulled barges and goods for transport. Nowadays, visitors can enjoy excellent flat walking, passing good land where tillage and cattle farming is predominant. The path offers much of architectural interest to the visitor – bridges, many arched, and pretty lock houses, some still in use. The full length of the Barrow Way from Robertstown in Kildare to St. Mullins in Carlow is 113 kilometres. Accommodation is available at regular intervals and varies from hotels to self-catering and B&B.

STAGE 1 of the Barrow Way starts in Robertstown, Co. Kildare and a distance of 23km takes you to the town of Monasterevin. The raised banks of the canal offer beautiful vistas of the surrounding countryside with views of the Hill of Allen and the Wicklow Mountains.

STAGE 2 covers the stretch from Monasterevin to Athy – 23km. This stretch offers the visitor much of historical and architectural interest with many old bridges and houses.

STAGE 3 runs from Athy to Carlow – 19km. This is the first of four stretches which pass through the county of Carlow. Starting from the heritage town of Athy, the route passes many interesting lifting bridges and old mills before reaching Carlow Town.

STAGE 4 Carlow to Bagenalstown – 16km. Milford, approximately 7km south of Carlow is one of the most attractive stretches along the River Barrow. Set in an idyllic location with three bridges, mill buildings and a large wooded area, it is famous as an aquatic triangle with regular sightings of herons and kingfishers. This stretch of walk is rich with historical buildings and castles including the Black Castle at Leighlinbridge and the many architectural and industrial gems in the town of Bagenalstown, where this section of the walk ends.

STAGE 5 takes the walker from Bagenalstown to Graiguenamanagh – 26km. This route passes the pretty villages of Goresbridge and Borris before ending in Graiguenamanagh, a picturesque abbey town and a popular boating centre. Overlooking the River Barrow is Duiske Abbey founded by Norman monks from Stanley Abbey, Wiltshire in 1204.

STAGE 6 Graiguenamanagh to St. Mullins – 8km. This stretch has beautiful woodland surroundings with a strong ecclesiastical theme in the religious settlement at St. Mullins. The lower settlement is set on a glorious stretch of the Barrow Valley and includes a picnic area.



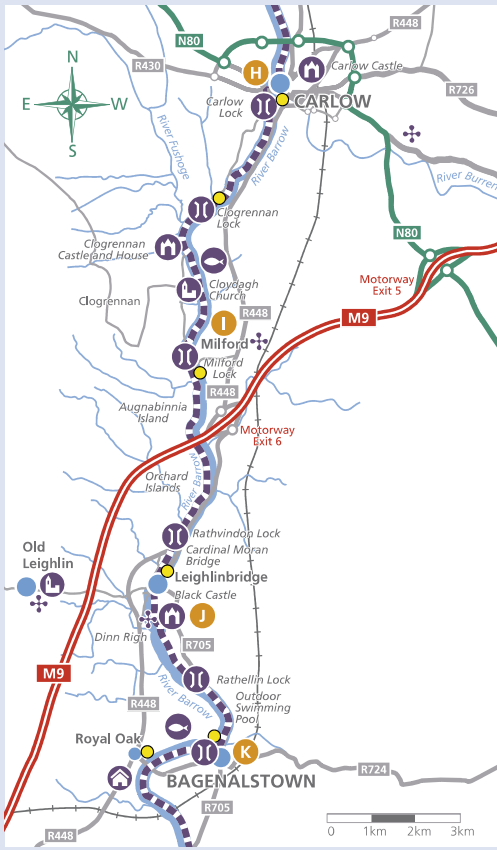
Walking the Barrow Way at Tinnabinch.



Source: Waterways Ireland

The Barrow Way long distance walking route.

carlow - bagenaltown



the barrow way

- H-I** From Carlow the Barrow Way switches to the right or west bank of the River Barrow at Wellington or Graiguecullen Bridge. The 13th century Carlow Castle which protected the river crossing and around which Carlow town developed, is well worth a visit. The landscape changes south of Carlow town, flat plains are replaced by hills on either side with wooded valleys. The Castlecomer Plateau rises up on the west side. Below Carlow, the ruins of Clogrennan Castle and Clogrennan House, seat of the Rochforts can be seen on the right or west bank.
- I-J** Milford is a pleasant spot on the River Barrow and is particularly rich in plant and bird life – spot the herons, kingfishers and swallows among the many species of birds. The ruins of Milford Mill (1790-1965), established by the Alexander family are nearby and were once the site of a busy flour, malting and tannery business. In the 1890s the present day mill was used as a generating station for electricity with Carlow the first inland town in Ireland and the UK to have electric street lighting.
- J-K** Leighlinbridge is another old town built on a crossing point which was guarded by the Black Castle. The bridge at Leighlinbridge, built in 1320, is the oldest on the River Barrow. The Way now switches to the left bank and as you leave the village behind, the ancient site of Dinn Righ lies up on your right, said to be a fort of one of the former Kings of Leinster. Bagenaltown is reached shortly after passing the outdoor swimming pool. In modern times the village has won numerous awards in the Tidy Towns competition.

Trailhead: Carlow	Minimum gear: Suitable walking footwear, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
Services: See below and map	OSI map: No. 61 www.osi.ie
Distance/Time: 18km (5 hours)	Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background.
Difficulty: Easy	Emergency services: 999 or 112
Terrain: Road, track and river towpath	
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers	

Carlow town



Leighlinbridge



Bagenaltown



the barrow way

- K-L** A small village called Muine Bheag existed here in the Middle Ages but in the 18th century Walter Bagenal designed a new town, supposedly based on Versailles of France and called it Bagenaltown. Pleasing features of this period include the impressive courthouse, now a public library and a fine neo-classical railway station.
- L-M** Goresbridge named after Colonel Gore was built in 1756 and features a beautifully maintained picnic area and riverside park. Ballytiglea Lock and then Bridge is reached where you may exit if you wish to visit Borris. Borris is a Georgian, granite village, full of charm and heritage whose houses and Victorian shop fronts have remained largely intact. There is a wonderful 3.5km walk around and under the old Railway Viaduct at the end of the village, offering superb views to the Blackstairs Mountains and Mount Leinster. A dedicated car park and picnic area have been developed at the site.
- M-N** Continue on the towpath, with the wooded estate of Borris House on your left. Clashganny Lock and weir is reached some 6kms from Borris and is a popular beauty and picnic spot with wonderful walks through Clashganny Forest.
Approaching Graigueanamanagh the river begins to cut its way between the hills with attractive tree-lined slopes.

Trailhead: Bagenaltown	OSI map: No. 61 & 68 www.osi.ie and the <i>Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and Barrow Valley</i> by East West Mapping www.eastwestmapping.ie
Services: See below and map	Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background.
Distance/Time: 26km (7 hours)	Emergency services: 999 or 112
Difficulty: Easy	
Terrain: Road, track and river towpath	
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers	
Minimum gear: Suitable walking footwear, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.	

Bagenaltown



Goresbridge



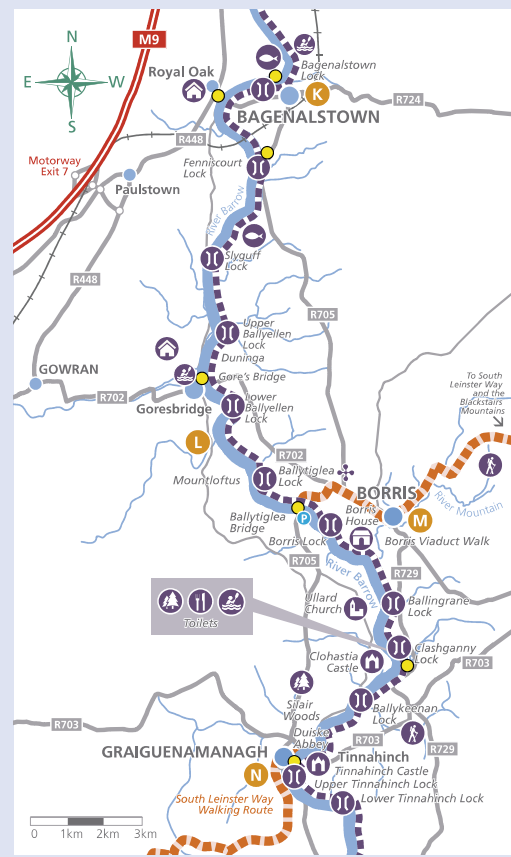
Borris

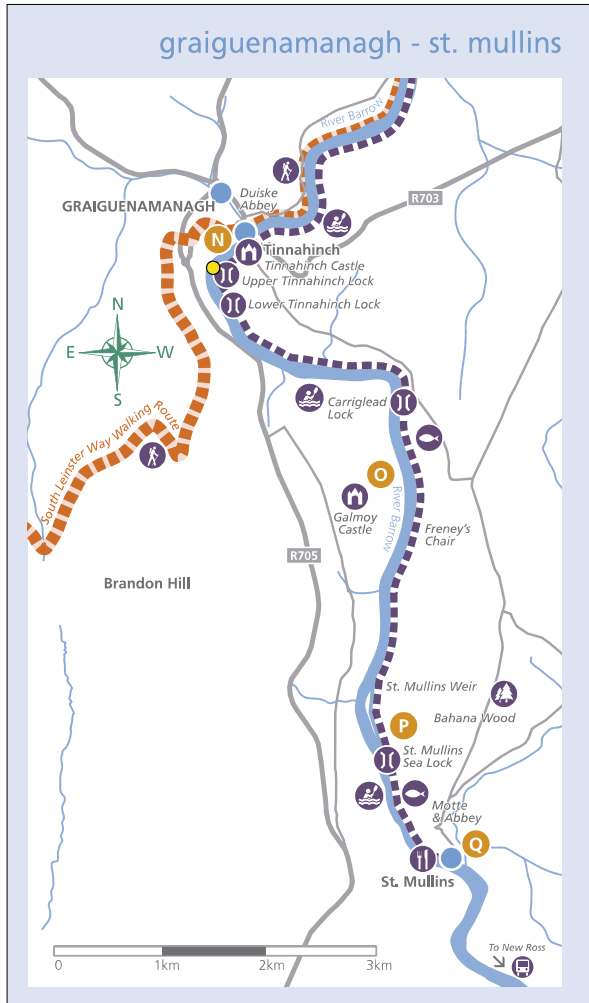


Graigueanamanagh/Tinnahinch



bagenaltown - graigueanamanagh





the barrow way

- N** Graiguenamanagh is a busy town and a very popular mooring place on the River Barrow. It was once the hub of the barge transport business and many families plied that trade. Rail and road transport eventually replaced the barges, last used in 1959. As you leave the town you pass Tinnahinch Castle, a Butler stronghold built to defend the ford.
- O** This section may be short but it is full of beauty and drama with frequent weirs and the lofty Brandon Hill rising up to your right. It is popular with both walkers and people travelling the river by boat, Canadian canoe or kayak.
- P** Soon you reach the mighty St. Mullins Weir, this and the following Sea Lock separate the tidal part of the River Barrow from the upper reaches that you have just followed. Below the Sea Lock boats must wait at St. Mullins for the rising tide to start on their journey to New Ross and the sea.
- Q** St. Mullins village is the start/finishing point of the Barrow Way. Leaving the quay and mill buildings behind, you soon reach the Norman Motte which is a high, man-made hill fortification. Opposite this are the ruins of the ancient Tigh Moling, the house of Moling, an early Christian missionary in Ireland who founded a monastery here in the 7th century. St. Mullins is one of the country's most significant archaeological and ecclesiastical sites, ranking in importance with Glendalough and Clonmacnoise.

Trailhead: Graiguenamanagh	Minimum gear: Suitable walking footwear, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
Services: See below and map	OSI map: No. 68 www.osi.ie and the <i>Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and Barrow Valley</i>
Distance/Time: 8 kilometres, 2-3 hours	Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background
Difficulty: Easy	Emergency services: 999 or 112
Terrain: Road, track and river towpath	
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers	

Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch



St. Mullins



blackstairs eco trails wild things to do in carlow

Blackstairs Eco Trails

Killedmond, Borris, Co. Carlow.

t: 059-9773184/087-2707189

e: blackstairecotrails@gmail.com

w: www.blackstairecotrails.ie for workshop details

Want to know more about the birds, flora, fungi, mammals

and butterflies of the Blackstairs Mountains and the River Barrow?

Blackstairs Eco Trails can

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workshops, wild herbal

workshops, wild mushroom

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Hen, an elegant hen party

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services on offer include teachers

courses, school visits, childrens' trails

and Fun in the Wild! Recipients of a Gold Standard by Eco Tourism

Ireland. Their recently converted barn features the highest eco credentials

and is perfect for yoga, mindfulness courses, think-ins, workshops,

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cars. Electric car charger for guests use. Alternatively Blackstairs Eco

Trails can travel to give a talk, seminar, field trip or workshop in your area

on climate change, GMO's, foraging, fungi, sustainability or biodiversity.

GPS: 52.612718, -6.8555203



the wicklow way



The Wicklow Way covers a distance of 127km in length commencing in Marley Park, Dublin and finishing in the beautiful village of Clonegal located in the River Slaney Valley in the east of the county. A combination of suburban parkland, forest trails, wild and scenic mountain landscape and finally, rolling countryside offers a wonderfully varied, eight to ten day experience. w: www.irishtrails.ie

walking clubs



Tullow Mountaineering Club frequently walk in the Blackstairs – for further details of walks visit w: www.tullowmountaineeringclub.ie

The Blackstairs Ramblers are a group of hill walkers who as their name suggests, enjoy rambling on the Blackstairs Mountains. See www.blackstairsramblers.com for further details.

birdwatch ireland carlow



Birdwatch Ireland's Carlow Branch was set up to encourage local wildlife enthusiasts to get together. If you are visiting the area and are interested in learning more about birds and other wildlife, and their conservation, the branch organises evening talks and weekend walks. Branch events are advertised on the "Wild Carlow" facebook page. Visitors to the county are most welcome.

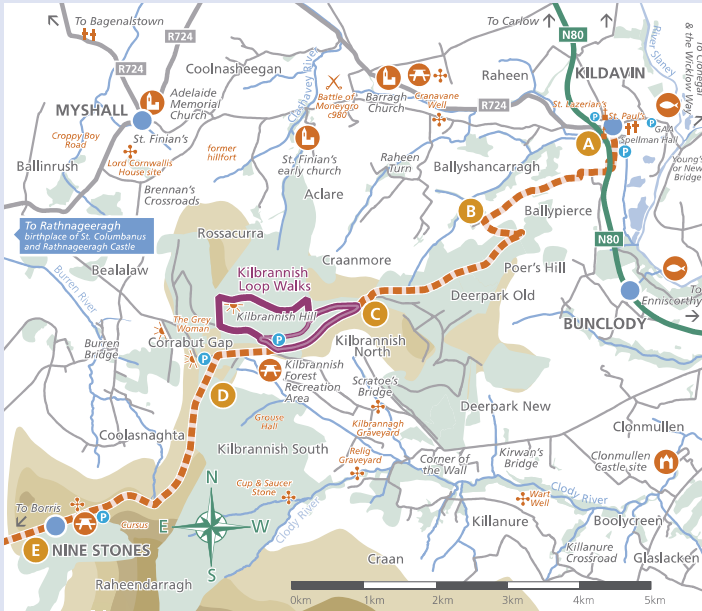


© Brian Power

kildavin - nine stones

Trailhead: Kildavin
Services: See below and map
Distance/Time: 11.6km (approx. 4 hrs)
Difficulty: Hard
Terrain: Minor roadways, forestry tracks and hillside paths
Ascent: 475 metres
To suit: Experienced walkers

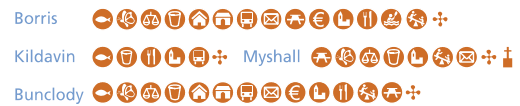
Minimum gear: Hiking boots, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
OSI maps: OSI Discovery Series 68, 75 and 76 www.osi.ie and the *Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and the Barrow Valley* by East West Mapping.
Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background.
Emergency services: 999 or 112



south leinster way

The South Leinster Way is a long distance walking route which runs from Kildavin in the east of County Carlow to Carrick-on-Suir in County Tipperary, some 102km in length. Further details at www.irishtrails.ie

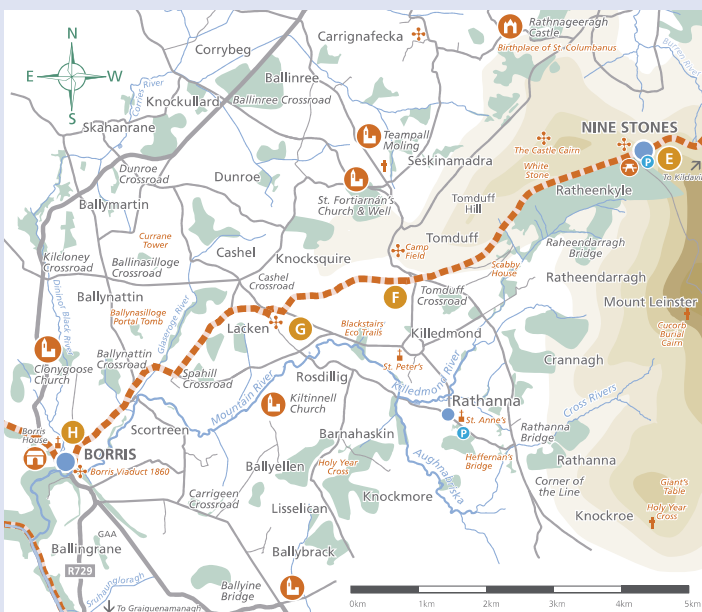
- A-B** From the trailhead beside Conway's Pub, follow the footpath south gently uphill towards Bunclody. After 500m, reach the main road and turn right to follow it for a short distance. Cross the main road to gain a minor tarmac road on the far side. Follow this for 2km as it climbs uphill.
- B-C** Reach Mount Leinster Cottages and turn left and steeply uphill on a rough unsurfaced track to enter a forest. Follow the forest road uphill to reach a junction after 500m. Turn right and follow the forest road as it climbs more gently along the slopes of the forested hillside. After 2.5km reach the crest of the hill and a short gap between two forests, that yields good views.
- C-D** From the crest of the hill, continue on downhill, passing a right turn after a short distance. There are signposted loop trails here, so take care to follow the yellow arrows. Continue on downhill for 1.5km to reach the Kilbrannish Forest Recreation car park. Turn right and follow the tarmac road with care uphill to reach Carroll's Crossroad just before Corrabut Gap.
- D-E** Turn left at Carroll's Crossroad and follow the tarmac mountain road with care. This climbs steadily with excellent views down into Coolasnaghta on your right. After 3km reach the large Nine Stones car park.



nine stones - borris

Trailhead: Nine Stones
Distance/Time: 10.6km (3 hours)
Difficulty: Hard
Terrain: Minor roadways, forestry tracks and hillside paths
Ascent: 20 metres
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers

Minimum gear: Hiking boots, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
OSI maps: OSI Discovery Series 68, 75 and 76 and the *Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and the Barrow Valley* by East West Mapping.
Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background
Emergency services: 999 or 112



south leinster way

- E-F** The Nine Stones Viewing Point provides an unrivalled vista of the rich and colourful Carlow countryside. Eight counties can be viewed from this spot and, on a clear day the coast of Wales. On the lower side of the road, you will see an alignment of nine small stones in the ground, said to commemorate nine shepherds lost on Mount Leinster in some distant winter storm. Continue on along the tarmac road from the Nine Stones car park which descends steadily, passing two notable landmarks: the White Stone on your right and later the Scabby House on your left just after a cattle grid. Reach Tomduff Crossroads.
- F-G** At Tomduff Crossroads, walk straight through two crossroad junctions. Nearby is the monument to the Tomduff Campfield, where a large force gathered in the 1798 rebellion. Continue downhill on a tarmac road to reach the T-junction of Cashel Crossroad. Turn right for a short distance and then left on a minor road.
- G-H** From Cashel Crossroad, the road continues to descend. Keep left at the next junction and drop downhill to reach Spahill Crossroad where you turn right. The road soon drops on the final descent to the village of Borris. There is a wonderful 3.5km walk around and under the old Railway Viaduct at the end of the village offering superb views to the Blackstairs Mountains and Mount Leinster. A dedicated car park and picnic area have been developed at the site.



south leinster way

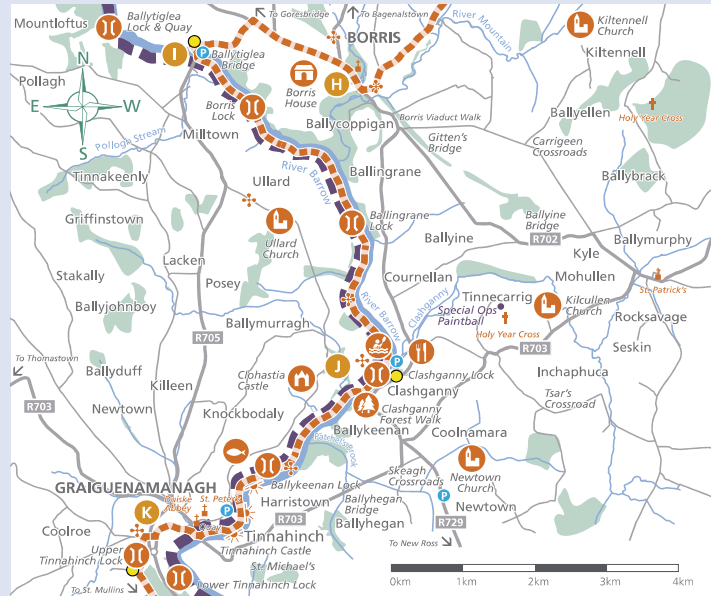
- H-I** Walk uphill out of Borris on the main R702 towards Goresbridge. Historic Borris House, seat of the McMorrough Kavanaghs, former kings of Leinster is on your left.
- I-J** From Ballytriglea Bridge, keep left and follow the broad towpath downstream with the River Barrow on your right. A little further on the Mountain River rushes in from your left and later you pass Ballingrane Lock. As you approach the scenic Clashganny Lock you will hear the roar of falling water from the adjacent weir.
- J-K** Continue on the towpath from Clashganny, the ruins of Clohastia Castle lie to the right, one of many Norman castles built to control navigation and crossing of the River Barrow. Reach Ballykeenan Lock and continue on following the yellow arrows, ignoring the local loop walks that turn left here. The wooded valley sides steepen on the next stretch and after a final sweeping bend, the historic town of Graiguenamanagh comes into view, with moored barges along granite quays and impressive old store houses. One of Ireland's finest Cistercian monasteries, Duiske Abbey, was founded here in 1204 by Norman monks from Stanley Abbey in Wiltshire.



borris - graiguenamanagh

Trailhead: Borris
Distance/Time: 13.1km (3 hours)
Difficulty: Easy
Terrain: Minor roadways, forestry tracks and hillside paths
Ascent: 60 metres
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers

Minimum gear: Hiking boots, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
OSI maps: OSI Discovery Series 68, 75 and 76 and the *Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and the Barrow Valley* from East West Mapping.
Type of trail: National Way Marked Trail – yellow arrow on black background
Emergency services: 999 or 112



looped walk – bahana forest, near st. mullins

bahana forest trail

Saint Moling founded a monastery here in the seventh century convenient to the River Barrow, which the Vikings sailed up in the tenth century to raid and destroy. The very impressive ruins of a fourteenth century abbey can be visited on the upper settlement with interpretation in the nearby heritage centre. Adjacent to the monastic site is a well preserved motte and bailey, a large grassy hillock (the motte) which was the site of a twelfth century Norman fortification. This route follows the long distance Barrow Way in part.

- Trail Name:** Bahana Forest Loop
 - Type of trail:** Local loop walk
 - Trailhead:** Car park at St. Mullins Quay
 - Services:** Car park, picnic area, restaurant and shop (seasonal)
 - Distance/Time:** 4.5km (approx 1 hour)
 - Difficulty:** Easy
 - Terrain:** River towpaths and forestry track
 - To suit:** Beginner or experienced walker
 - Minimum gear:** Hiking boots, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone
 - OSI maps:** OSI Discovery Series 68.
- The Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and the Barrow Valley from East West Mapping www.eastwestmapping.ie



Carlow has a selection of great looped walks at Oak Park Forest Park and Clogrennane Wood, both close to Carlow Town, Clashganny Forest and Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Areas, near Borris and Bahana Forest near the south Carlow village of St. Mullins.

oak park forest park



Situated on the outskirts of Carlow Town, Oak Park Forest Park is an oasis of tranquillity and a popular destination for walkers and joggers. The park is a mature, mixed species woodland of over 120 acres with a predominance of beech, oak, scots pine, silver fir, larch and sycamore. Extending over 4km the walks include Butlers Wood Loop (700m), the Lake Path (800m), Fox Covert Track (1,100m) and Sally Island Trail (1,700m). All the walks are wheelchair accessible while a range of visitor facilities include ample car parking, picnic tables, public toilets, outdoor exercise equipment and a universally accessible playground.

clashganny looped walk



Clashganny Forest Trails offer the user gentle walks on forest roads and along the Barrow Way with magnificent views of Clashganny Lock and the River Barrow. Much of the walk is through an old wood which has had forestry cover present since the 1800s.

The Clashganny Lock Loop is 3.5km long and takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete over flat terrain. The Clashganny Forest Looped Walk covers a distance of 6km, taking two hours to complete.

GPS: 52.559831, -6.91537

kilbrannish forests – north & south



Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area (North) on the Blackstairs Mountains features two signposted trails – the Windfarm Loop is 3km in length and is suitable for families with young children. The Kilbrannish Forest Loop is 5 km in length, taking approx. 2 hours to complete. Three walking trails in nearby Kilbrannish Forest (South) cater for the moderate walker including families to the more serious hiker – the Short Loop (6.5km), the Medium Loop (9.5km) and the Long Loop (10.5 km). All routes offer wonderful views of the surrounding countryside over the plains of Carlow with the village and town of Myshall and Tullow spread out below. A large car park and picnic facilities are available to visitors at Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area (North).

clogrennane wood



Clogrennane Wood near Carlow Town offers the user a gentle sloping 4km walk on forest roads with magnificent views of Carlow Town and the River Barrow on a clear day. The area is an old wood and has had forestry cover present since the 1800s. The predominant tree species in Clogrennane are beech, spruce, larch and oak with vegetation consistent with that of an old woodland – bluebells, ferns, wild garlic and herb rocket.

GPS: 52.795113, -6.991109

boat hire

Barrowline Cruisers & Bike Hire

Vicarstown,
Co. Laois.
R32 DE63

t: 057-8626060
m: 087-9887241
e: info@barrowline.ie
w: www.barrowline.ie



Barrowline Cruisers is an award-winning family run narrowboat and barge hire business. Situated on the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal, Vicarstown is the perfect starting point to begin your navigation along these stunning ancient waterways. Travelling by canal boat allows you to reach parts of the countryside not accessible in any other way. Slow down from the fast pace of modern life in an unspoilt landscape, cruising gently under stone bridges hundreds of years old. Experience the thrill of rushing water at the locks as they open and close, enabling you to pass through on your journey in this special place. Simple to operate, the barges were designed to combine traditional charm with modern day convenience. Cosy wood-burning stoves and central heating on board add to the ambience. Weekly and short break hire available.



Boattrips.ie

Boat Trips.ie
Jetty, Carlow Town Park,
Graiguecullen,
Carlow.

t: 087-2061999
e: boattrips.ie@gmail.com
w: www.boattrips.ie



For an outdoor adventure for all the family, enjoy an open-boat trip on the beautiful River Barrow. Take time to immerse yourself in nature and heritage, experiencing life as it was for the river folk of a bygone era. There is something for all to explore. Kids will enjoy spotting all manner of wildlife such as kingfishers, otters, dragonflies and shoals of fish as they glide past the boat. For those with a busy lifestyle, it's the perfect occasion to switch off the mobile phone and relax inches above the waterline, unwinding to a more soothing pace of life. Hear the tales and legends of the river's boatmen and gently touch the cool waters they plied while flowing through the ancient arteries of a once glacial Ireland. Trips are suitable for all, from the very young to the young at heart. For previous customer reviews, check out google maps or see www.boattrips.ie



Jennifer's Travels Barge Hire

Bell Harbour,
Monasterevin,
Co. Kildare.
t: 086-3425546
e: jenniferstravels@gmail.com
w: www.jenniferstravels.com



Escape it all by taking the tiller of a Jennifer's Travel's barge. Cruise the River Barrow and Grand Canal in a boat of character. A friendly, family-run, well-established operation. Located in Bell Harbour in the centre of Monasterevin Town, halfway between the River Barrow and the Grand Canal, making it an ideal choice to explore either or both waterways. Built in a traditional stern style, specifically for holiday cruising, there is a large deck to the stern and a second deck to the bow.

It offers all the comforts of home and sleeps up to four adults comfortably.



angling information

The River Barrow is renowned as a coarse and game angling river for bream, roach, dace, hybrids, rudd, perch and pike, brown trout, sea trout and salmon. The river has easy access points via a towpath. In 2020 a strict catch and release policy applies in respect of all salmon, while the river is closed for all eel fishing. The salmon and brown trout season on the River Barrow commenced on March 17th and finishes on September 30th. Other fishing (with the exception of salmon and brown trout) is available year round. The rivers Greese and Lerr, tributaries of the River Barrow provide excellent brown trout fishing while the River Burrin is one of the finest trout fishing rivers in the region. The excellent stocks of quality pike are one of the main attractions for anglers on the River Barrow, with stocks of 20+lbs. Pike angling is carried out on all stretches of the river between Athy and St. Mullins with the main locations being Bahana Wood (just above St. Mullins), Graiguenamanagh and Ballytiglea Bridge near Borris. Pike, bream and hybrids are the primary species but rudd is also abundant here. It is vital to familiarise oneself with the pike regulations, prior to fishing for pike.

Murph's Fishing Tackle

Cathedral Close,
Tullow Street, Carlow.
GPS: 52.836149, -6.926452
t: 059-9132839
e: murphs10@hotmail.com
w: www.fishingtackledirect.ie

Murph's Fishing Tackle is the ideal outlet for supplies of all types of fishing equipment – for the serious and not so serious angler. Suppliers of ground bait, pellets, live bait and dead bait. Stockists of a large selection of reels, rods, lures and fishing accessories. Information on fishing in the local area is provided as well as licences for salmon and permits for trout.





Altamont Plant Sales

The Walled Garden @ Altamont, Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 N882 t: 087-9822135

e: sales@altamontplants.com w: www.altamontplants.com

An unmissable highlight of a visit to Altamont Gardens is the Walled Garden situated within the grounds of the estate and run privately by gardener and nursery man Robert Miller. The area consists primarily of the Corona North Commemorative



Border planted to honour the late Corona and Altamont Plant Sales and Nursery. Always renowned for its extensive range of herbaceous perennials, Altamont Plant Sales can also boast of having one of the largest collections of old shrub roses available for sale to the gardening public year round. Robert Miller of Altamont Plant Sales and in-house garden designer Ingrid Smyth are available for consultancy work for new and mature gardens. Sugar and Spice Café at Altamont Plant Sales open February – October daily 11 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

HOW TO FIND US: In the grounds of Altamont Gardens – for directions please see next entry.

OPENING TIMES: Jan. 1st - Nov. 30th 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. weekdays, 11a.m. – 6 p.m. weekends. Rest of year 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. daily.

Altamont Gardens

Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 N882

t: 059-9159444 e: altamontgardens@opw.ie

w: www.heritageireland.ie/www.carlowgardentrail.com

Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres (16 hectares). Lawns bisected by sculpted yews, slope down to a lake surrounded by rare trees and rhododendrons and



lead in turn to a very different garden featuring exotic shrubs and trees. A fascinating walk through the Arboretum, Bog Garden and Ice Age Glen with its canopy of ancient oaks and huge stone outcrops leads the visitor to the River Slaney. "Every visitor says it has a special atmosphere, that's why so many people come back. Every element you want from a great garden is here, from lovely lawns, floral beds and beautiful woodland going down to the river, to a walled garden and really superb collections, such as the snowdrops, rhododendrons and the fabulous oaks in the Arboretum" – Paul Cutler, head gardener at Altamont Gardens.

FACILITIES: Toilets, outdoor picnic tables, car and coach park, restricted wheelchair access. No dogs allowed except guide dogs.

HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin/Waterford exit the M9 at junction 5 for N80 Rosslare. Continue along the N80 through the village of Ballon and the N80/N81 junction. Turn left at the next cross road junction signed Altamont Gardens. From Carlow Town follow the N80 through Ballon and continue as above.

OPENING TIMES:

January 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 days per week.

February 1st – 28th, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

March 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 days per week.

April 1st – September 30th, 9 a.m. – 6.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

October 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 days per week.

November 1st – 30th, 9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. 7 days per week.

December 1st – 31st, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 days per week.

Closed Christmas Day and in adverse weather conditions.

ADMISSION: Car park fee of €2 per vehicle applies. Guided tours available for groups by prior appointment – adults €3.

Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven

Old Kilkenny Road (R448), Leighlinbridge,

Co. Carlow. R93 P9F4 t: 059-9721558

e: info@arboretum.ie w: www.arboretum.ie

Welcome to Arboretum

Home and Garden

Heaven. On a ten-acre site,

this family-run business

is a complete shopping

experience – in addition to

the five-star garden centre

visitors will find beautiful

interior furnishings,

quirky gift ideas, Weber

barbecues and accessories,

ladies' fashion, Regatta

outdoor wear, kitchenware,

and the award-winning

Rachel's Garden Café.

Edinburgh Woollen

Mills and Adman Sheds

complement the offering. It's possible to devote an entire day to visiting

Arboretum because in addition to the retail area and the café, there

are the Inspirational Gardens to be explored, an excellent children's

playground and a maze adjacent to the restaurant's outdoor seating area.

In Rachel's Garden Café, take time out to relax and plan the next stage of

your trip over some delicious food. Everything is made with the very

best ingredients, local where possible. The desserts are all made on the

premises and special dietary needs are catered for with gluten-, sugar- or

dairy-free options. There is a full children's menu to keep the little ones

happy. Arboretum reflects the changing seasons of the gardener's world.

At Christmas, Arboretum becomes a wonderland with a multitude of

decorations and gift ideas while in spring and summer, brilliant colours

burst from every area of the store. A commitment to excellent customer

service, quality products, unbeatable choice and value for money has

earned Arboretum the coveted title of Retail Excellence Garden Centre

of the Year 2017 and 2019. www.arboretum.ie

FACILITIES: Large on-site car and coach park, wheelchair accessible,

café with wine licence, indoor and outdoor children's play area, maze,

inspirational gardens, toilets and free Wi-Fi.

HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin / Waterford take exit 6 on M9

motorway and follow signs for Leighlinbridge. Arboretum Home and

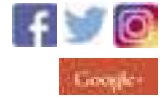
Garden Heaven is 3 km from exit 6 located immediately off the R448

at Leighlinbridge. Visitors travelling from Carlow Town should follow

the R448.

OPENING TIMES: Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday 9

a.m. – 8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Bank Holidays 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Arboretum Inspirational Gardens

A visit to Arboretum Inspirational Gardens at Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge is a treat for the amateur or the enthusiast. These gardens were created to inspire visitors to realise their own dream gardens. The gardens showcase a variety of planting schemes and garden designs, all of which deliver a wow factor and all of which are low maintenance. One of the great joys of gardens is colour and these gardens were designed to make the most of the positive effects of colour on our wellbeing – red for vitality for example, yellow for contentment, purple for knowledge, and so on. Families will enjoy exploring the African mud hut and spotting the friendly koi who reside in the Arboretum pond. Tours of the Arboretum Inspirational Gardens may be booked on 059 – 9721558. There is an excellent children's playground and a maze adjacent to the Inspirational Gardens. Rachel's Garden Café has a terrace area located beside the playground so that while the children play, their parents can enjoy delicious home-cooked food.



FACILITIES, DIRECTIONS, OPENING TIMES: As per previous entry for Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven. **Free Admission.**

BEAM – The Barrow Experience Garden

Barrow Lane, Regent Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow. R21 AH73
t: John Murphy 087-1223453 e: beamservices@eircom.net
GPS: 52.702973, -6.963991

The Barrow Experience is a unique series of ten interconnecting gardens which bring to life the history, folklore and heritage of the beautiful Barrow Valley. It is situated in the grounds of BEAM Services, a training centre for people with intellectual disabilities, on a picturesque site that bounds the canal off the River Barrow. There are ten individual gardens within the Barrow Experience – Dinn Righ, Druids' Wood, Potager Garden, Monastic Courtyard, Convent Garden, Reflective Garden, Water Garden, Co-operation Garden, Mindfulness Garden and the French Garden. The gardens represent both an active, healthy environment for our members to work in, and a therapeutic environment to relax in – along with the general public, who are always welcome.



FACILITIES: Car and coach park, wheelchair accessible.

HOW TO FIND US: In the centre of Bagenalstown.

OPENING TIMES: June, July and August, weekends only 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **ADMISSION:** €5 per person, group discount applies.

Borris House, Gardens and Woodlands

Borris, Co. Carlow. R95 Y2T1 t: 059-9771884
e: info@borrishouse.com w: www.borrishouse.com

The new lace garden illustrates the fascinating story of Borris Lace through its predominantly white colour palette, lace inspired flowers, sculptures and stylised planting. Stroll along the woodland paths and enjoy the beautiful specimen trees. See page 33 for more details.



Burtown House and Gardens

Athy, Co. Kildare. R14 KF63
t: 059-8623865

e: info@burtownhouse.ie w: www.burtownhouse.ie

Burtown House is an early Georgian villa dating from 1710 that is still lived in by the original family and is the last house in Kildare from the 18th century to have not been sold. With guided tours by family members it is an original Quaker house now surrounded by 12 acres of flower, woodland and kitchen gardens with old grass meadows and a sculpture park.


With the award-winning farm to fork restaurant The Green Barn and on-site artisan food shop and gallery, it offers guests an opportunity to experience history, gardens, art and the very best of seasonal Irish cuisine in one of Ireland's most unique settings.

FACILITIES: Car park, toilets, artisan food, retail and interiors shop. Burtown now features the award winning Green Barn Restaurant, Gallery and Shop located just inside the front gates. Set in the parkland overlooking their organic kitchen garden it is the ideal spot for a quick stop off or for a more relaxed luncheon style affair. Booking is recommended. Group bookings possible all year round.

HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin/Waterford take exit 3 on M9 motorway and follow signs for Athy. Take the second left turn and Burtown House is on the left, well signposted.

OPENING TIMES: All year, see website for up to date times. 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday and Bank Holidays. Also Friday and Saturday night dinner from 6.30 p.m. Snowdrop Month – February. **ADMISSION:** Gardens – adults €8, children €4, under 8 free. House tours – adults €10.





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Delta Sensory Gardens and Garden Centre
Strawhall Estate, Carlow. R93 Y959 t: 059 – 9143527
e: info@deltacentre.org w: www.deltasensorygardens.com

Delta Sensory Gardens are an oasis of peace and tranquillity, with sixteen interconnecting gardens set on 2.5 acres close to Carlow Town. The gardens have seen a huge growth in popularity with increasing visitor numbers from the general public, various groups and national and international visitors. The Sensory Gardens are highly acclaimed and have received many awards over the years. The gardens are suitable for visitors of all abilities and age groups with amazing water features that will take your breath away. Advance bookings advisable for groups. Café Thyme attached to the gardens offers delicious lunches, tea/coffee and snacks – the café is set in a relaxing and spacious atmosphere, also offering catering for special events. The garden centre stocks a range of shrubs, perennials and seasonal plants. Qualified horticulturalists are on hand to give friendly advice or tips on gardening needs. The centre also specialises in filling pots, containers and baskets with colourful seasonal bedding. There is a small gift shop offering beautiful handcrafted goods that are original and affordable. Delta Centre hosts many well established very popular events throughout the year at Easter, Summer, Halloween and Christmas. More details on www.deltasensorygardens.com



FACILITIES: Car park, toilets, wheelchair accessible, restaurant.
HOW TO FIND US: Eircode R93Y959. From Dublin/Waterford take exit 4 on M9 motorway and follow signs for Carlow Town. Strawhall Estate is located off Cannery Road, the road which serves Netwatch Cullen Park G.A.A. grounds on the outskirts of Carlow Town close to the Athy Road roundabout. Follow brown tourist signs.
OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., weekends and public holidays 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Closed from Christmas to early New Year only. **ADMISSION:** Adults €5, concessions €4, children free accompanied by adult (charge applies to children for special events). Group rate available.

Duckett's Grove Historic House, Walled Gardens and Pleasure Grounds
Kneestown, Co. Carlow (near Carlow Town). R93 RF80
t: Carlow Tourist Office 059 – 9131554
e: info@carlowtourism.com
w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Duckett's Grove, the 18th, 19th and early 20th century home of the Duckett family, was formerly at the centre of a 20,000 acre (8,093 hectares) estate that has dominated the Carlow landscape for over 300 years. Even in ruin, the surviving towers and turrets of Duckett's Grove form a romantic profile making it one of the most photogenic historic buildings in the country. This part Cobden designed building is structurally intact and accessible to the public. Two Georgian kitchen gardens form part of the complex where the old paths have been revealed and the beds and borders reinstated. Open daily, daylight hours. Teas/coffee available. Check in advance for opening times with Carlow Tourism 059 – 9130411 info@carlowtourism.com. The courtyard area features four craft studios occupied by artisan craft makers who specialise in wood turning, stained glass and candlemaking and are open on selected days during the week. This project forms part of the Ireland's Ancient East tourism trail.



new 2020 Enjoy guided tours (on selected days), audio tours in five languages, new storytelling panels throughout the site and a film of Duckett's Grove.

FACILITIES: Large car and coach park, toilets, wheelchair access.
HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin / Waterford take exit 4 off the M9



motorway. Follow signs for Castledermot, then take the R418 Castledermot – Tullow Road for 6km and turn right at the signed junction. From Carlow Town take the R726 Hacketstown Road for 10 km to Killerig Cross. Turn left at this junction onto the R418 for 2.5 km, turn left again at the signed junction. **OPENING TIMES:** Gardens and ruined mansion daily, daylight hours. **ADMISSION:** Free.

Hardymount Gardens
Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 XN24
t: 059–9151769
w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

One of the largest Spanish chestnuts in the country greets you on arrival to 2.5 acres of lawns and shrubs surrounded by magnificent beech and oak trees. A wonderful walled garden behind the house contains many unusual plants and flowers in the herbaceous border – lilac coloured Erysimum, yellow helianthus, beds of old roses, downy variegated mint, mimosa, blue agapanthus, California tree poppies, Chinese foxgloves and much, much more. The grass paths take you past the pond with lilies and fish to espaliered apple trees, Lobelia tupa, a pergola clothed with wisteria and underplanted with hollyhocks and foxgloves and on to a vegetable garden. A Summer House at the end of the garden in a sheltered corner provides a quiet area for rest and relaxation. Created by Sheila Reeves-Smyth who gardened here for 35 years until her death in 2018. Now in the care of her daughter and son-in-law, Mark and Justina McKeever. **FACILITIES:** Wheelchair accessible. **HOW TO FIND US:** From Dublin – through the town of Tullow onto the Bunclody Road N81. Turn right after the Topaz petrol station, on the outskirts of the town. Turn right at the next cross roads – the gardens are 550m on the right hand side. **OPEN:** Daily 2 – 6 p.m. May – August inclusive. Open at other times by arrangement. Groups very welcome **ADMISSION:** Adults €5 (in aid of Cancer Research). Tea, coffee and lunches available to groups on request.



Huntington Castle and Gardens
Clonegal, Co. Carlow. Y21 K237
t: 053–9377160
w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

These gardens were mainly laid out in the 17th century and include the French limes on the avenue as well as the formal lawns to the side of the house. See page 33 for more details.



Herb Gardens at Kilgraney House
Borris Road, Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
R21 W527 t: 059–9775283
e: info@kilgraneyhouse.com
w: www.kilgraneyhouse.com

Kilgraney takes its name from the Irish 'cill gréine' which means 'sunny hill' or 'sunny wood'. These wooded and secluded grounds consist of a series of interconnecting herbal gardens that are revealed gradually as you walk through the property. The enclosed kitchen garden supplies the guesthouse with fruit, vegetables and herbs. The medicinal garden, set in a granite courtyard, consists of nine raised beds and each is planted with herbs suitable for treating a particular part of the body. In lower courtyards you will find a fragrant sanctuary, a medieval monastic cloister garden and a circular cosmic garden to facilitate our understanding of the ancient belief that there is a connection between people, plants and the cosmos. A series of enclosed gardens accommodate a dyer's garden and orchards featuring soft fruits, heritage Irish apple, medlar, quince and pear trees. A recently planted native tree walk is based on Bretha Comaithchesa – an eighth-century Irish law that classified trees into four hierarchical divisions and series of laws governing their use. **FACILITIES:** Car park, toilets, art /craft gallery, restricted access for wheelchairs. **HOW TO FIND US:** Situated just off the R705 Bagenalstown – Borris Road, the herb gardens are 6km from Bagenalstown. **OPEN:** Check website and social media for details. **ADM:** €3. Tea and coffee available. Unsuitable for children. No dogs allowed.



Leighlinbridge – The Garden Village
Mary Meaney, Secretary, Leighlinbridge
Improvement Group GPS: 52.735586, -6.973691
t: 086-6027751

w: www.leighlinbridgetidytowns.ie
Leighlinbridge, winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town in 2015, enjoys a range of gardens, built and designed by the local community to commemorate various aspects of village life over the years. These include the Millennium Garden, seven small individual gardens, each with its own theme represented by trees, shrubs and stones. The Vivaldi Garden is based on Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* while the Garden of Remembrance commemorates important occasions in the history of the village. This garden is accessible year round and is suitable for wheelchair users. The Sculpture Garden is dedicated to three of Leighlinbridge's most famous sons – Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran, John Tyndall and Captain Myles Keogh. A newly designed heritage trail takes visitors on an interesting tour around the village, highlighting key aspects of its history and heritage. **FACILITIES:** Restaurants, award winning Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, hotel, public houses, castle, historic buildings, angling, walking routes, picnic site. **HOW TO FIND US:** From Dublin/Waterford take exit 6 on M9 motorway and follow signs for Leighlinbridge which is clearly signposted off the R448, 3km from here. Alternatively visitors travelling from Carlow Town should follow the R448. **OPEN:** Daylight hours. **ADMISSION:** Free.



The Meadows, No. 7 The Meadows,
Myshall, Co. Carlow. R21 CF43
t: 059-9157530 w: www.philippabayliss.com

The Meadows is positioned in a small estate in Myshall village with views extending to the Wicklow Mountains, the Carlow Ridge and Mount Leinster. The plot at No. 7 is about a third of an acre and slopes steeply into the hillside with the back shaded by sycamores. In front of the house there are plantings of pampas grass, miscanthus, dwarf and prostate conifers, orange fennel, watsonia, kniphofia, fox gloves, heathers and catmint. The back is planted with an informal hedge of shrub roses and trees interspersed with mostly herbaceous plants, set into gravel. Designed with low maintenance in mind with only intermittent hard work to keep it in order. **FACILITIES:** Car park, toilet, art gallery, garden studio. Artists welcome. **HOW TO FIND US:** Opposite Myshall Garda Station on the Kildavin Road R724. **OPENING TIMES:** March – September, 12 – 5 p.m. daily with the exception of Thursday. **ADMISSION:** €3.



Oak Park Forest Park
Oak Park – outskirts of Carlow Town.
GPS: 52.864166, -6.894982
t: 059-9131554 Carlow Tourist Office
e: info@carlowtourism.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com
The park is a mature, mixed species woodland of over 120 acres with a predominance of beech, oak, scots pine, silver fir, larch and sycamore. Boasting a rich diversity of wildlife, the lakes and their surrounds provide a habitat for swans and ducks, while the islands shelter many wild and game birds. Extending over four kilometres the walks include Butlers Wood Loop (700 metres), the Lake Path (800 metres), Fox Covert Track (1,100 metres) and Sally Island Trail (1,700 metres). **FACILITIES:** Universally accessible playground, outdoor exercise equipment, outdoor picnic tables, wheelchair accessible walkways and toilets, large car park, bat sanctuary and bird-watching area. **HOW TO FIND US:** From Dublin/Waterford take exit 4 on M9 motorway. Follow signs for Carlow taking the first right after Toughers Restaurant. Take a left at the next junction. Access also possible off Cannery Road close to the Athy Road junction in Carlow Town. **OPENING TIMES:** Year round daily, daylight hours. **ADMISSION:** Free.

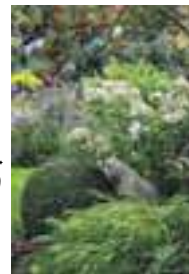


Winner of the RDS Irish
Forestry Awards 2013

Patthana Gardens
Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow.

GPS: 52.9048235, -6.606162 t: 086-1944547
Patthana is one of the best small secret gardens in the country. It is the garden of an artist, the painter T.J. Maher. There are so many distractions here. Each time one looks in a certain direction something unnoticed only a little while before becomes apparent. "Patthana is a garden I wish I had created." – *The 100 Best Gardens in Ireland* by Shirley Lanigan.

FACILITIES: Tea/coffee and homemade desserts available to groups with advanced booking. Selection of antique and vintage tableware for sale. No wheelchair access. Patthana Gardens offer a garden course which features a three hour class once per month from March – November. Pre-booking essential. Plants for sale. **HOW TO FIND US:** Turn off the N81 in Baltinglass into the town centre and take the R727 to Kiltegan for 8km (approx. 10 mins). Upon entering Kiltegan Village take the first left. Patthana (two storey granite house) is on the right, opposite the village green. **OPENING TIMES:** First Sunday in May – first Sunday in October from 12 – 5 p.m. Open to groups (5+) at other times by appointment only. **ADMISSION:** €5.



Rathwood Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 X3F9
t: 059-9156285 e: reception@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

Rathwood Home and Garden World has a beauty salon, ladies boutiques, furniture showrooms, a garden centre, a restaurant and much more. There are lovely woodland walks, a children's playground, the Maze of Ireland and a train ride. Combine lunch or an afternoon tea stop at Rathwood with your visit to Altamont Gardens.

FACILITIES: A beauty salon, furniture and interiors shops, gift shops, restaurant, garden centre, ladies fashions and shoes, potteries, children's clothing, stone landscaping, garden sheds, children's outdoor play garden and state of the art children's indoor playcentre, train rides, forest walks, large coach and car park, toilets, wheelchair access. Located close by the Chocolate Garden of Ireland and Rathgall Hillfort. **HOW TO FIND US:** 10 km from Altamont Gardens. From Dublin/Waterford take exit 4 on M9 motorway. Follow signs for Castledermot, and then take the R418 to Tullow. Rathwood is located on the R725 Tullow to Shillelagh Road, 5km from Tullow Town. **OPEN:** Monday – Saturday including Bank Holidays 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Rath Wood Forest Walks
Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 X3F9
t: 059-9156285

Rath Wood offers gentle walks for all ages from a short leisurely wheelchair accessible path to the longer looped Molloy walk. Rath Wood offers a sanctuary for many mammals, birds and insect species within its 185 acre boundaries. The forest contains a great variety of tree species including beech, oak, Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, birch, Douglas fir and alder. The historical feature of Rathgall Hillfort which dates back to 800 B.C. is also located nearby. **FACILITIES:** Coillte forest walks – wheelchair/child buggy with seating at regular intervals. Woodland map guide, toilets and restaurant available at Rathwood. Information and bridge entrance to woods via car park. **HOW TO FIND US** and **OPENING TIMES** as per Rathwood entry above. **ADMISSION:** Free.



Shankill Castle and Gardens Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny
t: 059-9726145 e: info@shankillcastle.com
w: www.shankillcastle.com

The gardens at Shankill offer a tranquil retreat – a mixture of formal gardens and wild vistas. See page 34 for more details.

The Carlow Garden Trail attaches great importance to community-led green spaces and the vital roles they play in supporting biodiversity, protecting the environment and promoting both the health of the planet and human wellbeing and so while not conventional gardens, their inclusion reflects the progressive attitudes to gardening in County Carlow. These community-created green spaces are an important expression of a wider interest in environmentalism, something that is also of key concern to the modern gardener.

Ballon Tree Trail, Ballon, Co. Carlow.
t: 087-2424934 w: www.ballonvillage.com



This short tree trail through Ballon Village passes by twelve Irish trees, each denoted with a plaque including willow, wild plum, hawthorn, oak, elder and many more. A lovely route, the walk takes you past many heritage buildings and cultural attractions along the Ballon Heritage Trail including the Church of St. Peter and Paul, the

old graveyard, the Lecky family graveyard at Ballykealey, Ballon Hill, one of the most important sites in Ireland during the early bronze age period, and the Bull Tree on Main Street. Although it is more usual to plant ornamental tree varieties in village centres and housing estates, native trees attract more native birds and insects, and so increase biodiversity within the village. **FACILITIES:** Ballon Village has a full range of visitor facilities including parking, shops and a café. **HOW TO FIND US:** The walk starts outside the Old National School in Ballon. Follow the Ballon Tree Trail through the village on newly erected map boards. Tours for groups can be facilitated with prior notice. **OPENING TIMES:** Daily. **ADMISSION:** Free.

An Gairdín Beo
Old Dublin Road, Carlow.
w: www.angairdinbeo.org

An Gairdín Beo is a two-acre community garden in the centre of Carlow Town where people work together and then reap the rewards together. The overall vision of the project is of a space in which diverse people can connect more to nature, to the growing and making of food and to each other. The ethos of the garden is based on an ecological orientation, on valuing diversity, sustainability and indigenous species.

FACILITIES: Car park. **HOW TO FIND US:** In Carlow Town on the Old Dublin Road. **OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Friday 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday by arrangement.

ADMISSION: Free.



Myshall Tree Trail, Myshall, Co. Carlow.
www.myshalldrumphea.com

Myshall Tree Trail starts adjacent to Myshall Community Centre from where one can see two monkey puzzle trees and a high cross. While there are numerous trees along the trail, twenty five notable species have been chosen which are a mix of both native and non-native.

FACILITIES: Myshall village has a range of facilities including two amenity parks, free parking, a children's playground and picnic facilities all within the confines of the tree trail, brochures for which are available in the local shops and Post Office. **HOW TO FIND US:** From the N80 Carlow–Rosslare Road pass the Fighting Cocks Pub, then follow signs for Fenagh. Myshall is 6km from Fenagh Village. **OPENING TIMES:** Daily. **ADMISSION:** Free.



CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

See What You're Missing

View the pulpit from Carlow Cathedral, included in 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects'
See the smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh, killed at the infamous Battle of Little Big Horn
Home to the last cigarette smoked by Kevin Barry at the age of 18 before he was executed in 1920
Find out about the 19th century scientist John Tyndall, the first person to discover the greenhouse effect.

Admission is FREE

Museum Opening Hours - June to August

Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays 2.00pm - 4.30pm

September to May Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 4.30pm

(last admission half hour before closing)

Carlow County Museum, College Street, Carlow Town

Entrance through Carlow Tourist Office. R93E3T2

Tel: 059 9131554 Email: museum@carlowcoco.ie

www.carlowmuseum.ie



SEE PAGE 31 FOR FURTHER DETAILS




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E info@stephousehotel.ie
W www.stephousehotel.ie

Reddys OF CARLOW

- BAR LOUNGE
- RESTAURANT
- FUNCTION ROOMS

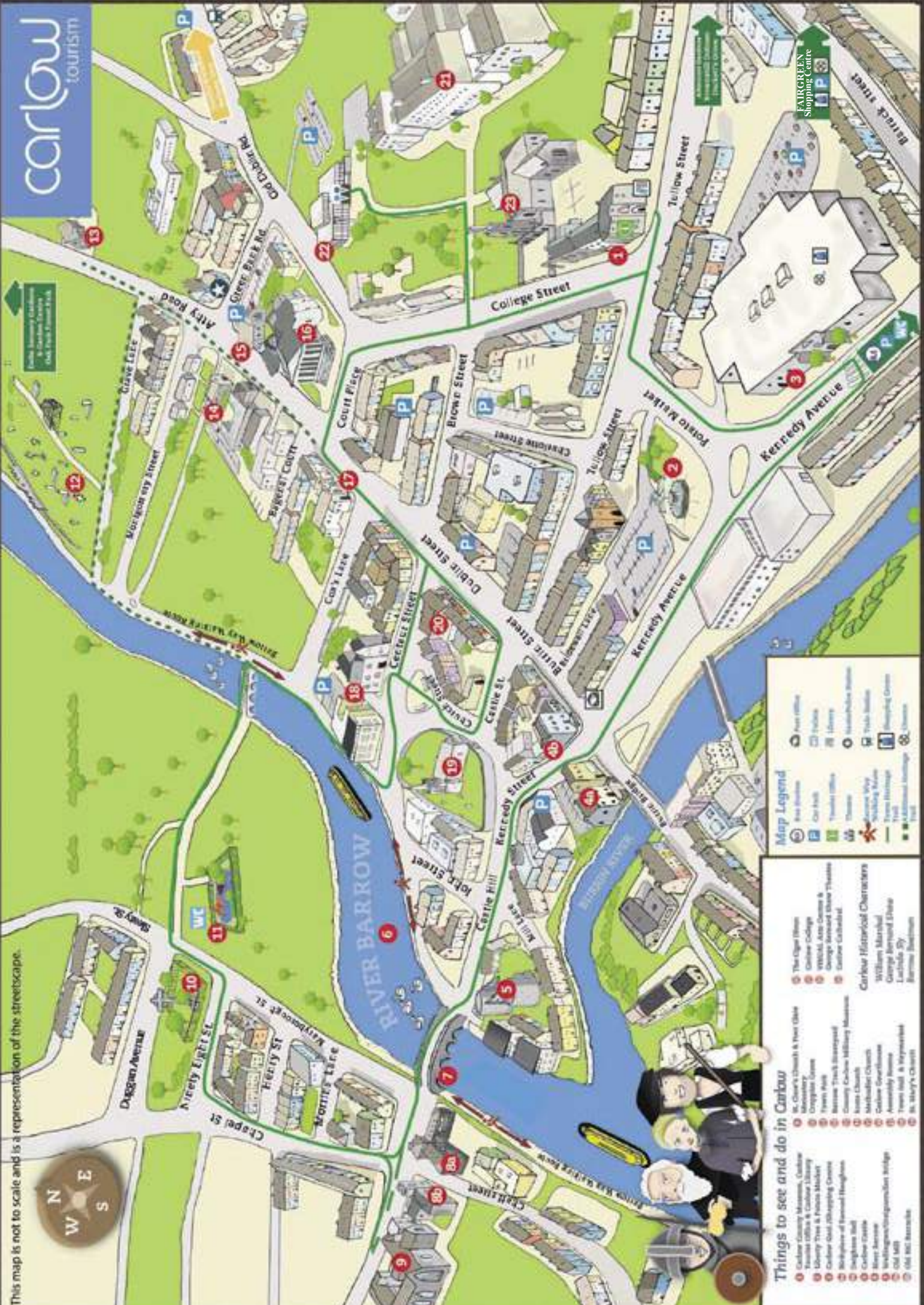
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OPEN 7 DAYS

Tullow Street Carlow | Ph: 059 914222
www.reddyscarlow.ie



This map is not to scale and is a representation of the streetscape.



Map Legend

- Bus Stop
- Bus
- Car Park
- Tram Stop
- Tram
- Public Office
- Police Station
- Post Office
- Library
- Museum
- Theatre
- Market
- Shopping Centre
- Additional Landmarks
- Footpath

Things to see and do in Carlow

- 1 Carlow County Museum, Carlow
- 2 Public Office & Carlow Library
- 3 Liberty Tree & Prince's Market
- 4 Carlow's Old Shopping Centre
- 5 St. John's of Bernard Heights
- 6 Douglas Hall
- 7 Carlow Castle
- 8 River Avenue
- 9 Walkway to the Greenway Bridge
- 10 Old Mill
- 11 Old Mill Bridge
- 12 St. Mary's Church
- 13 St. John's Church & New Oldie
- 14 St. Mary's Church
- 15 Droghda Castle
- 16 Fresh Fish
- 17 Carlow's Old Shopping Centre
- 18 County Carlow Milling Museum
- 19 St. Mary's Church
- 20 Carlow Courthouse
- 21 Assembly Rooms
- 22 Town Hall & Synagogue
- 23 St. Mary's Church

Carlow Historical Characters

- William Marshall
- George Bernard Shaw
- Lachlan St. John
- Bernard Beckett



FAIRGREEN Shopping Centre

1 **Tourist Office and Carlow Library:**

The museum brings to life the story of Carlow's development through the ages. Items on display include the original gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol used to execute Lucinda Sly for murdering her husband in 1835; the smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh of the 7th US Cavalry who died at the Battle of Little Big Horn; read about John Tyrrell a 19th century scientist who discovered the greenhouse effect. The building also houses the Tourist Office, the County Library and Archive.

www.carlowmuseum.ie
2 **The Potato Market and Liberty Tree:**

Carlow was a market town around which areas developed reflecting the goods traded there, like the potato Market, Coal Market, Butcher Market and Haymarket. The Potato Market was the scene of a massacre of over 600 rebels and civilians following an unsuccessful attack on the town by the United Irishmen, known as the Battle of Carlow during the 1798 rebellion. The Liberty Tree sculpture designed by John Behan, commemorates the 1798 Rebellion and was unveiled in 1998 to commemorate the bi-centenary.

3 **Carlow Gaol:**

This was the town Gaol for much of the 19th century. It was home for most of the 20th century to Thompson's Engineering Works and is now Carlow Shopping Centre. The main gate of the Gaol used local granite to give an impression of great strength and solidity. Immediately inside the main entrance is the substantial Governor's House, a three-bay three-storey building. The last woman to be publicly hanged in the Gaol was Lucinda Sly who along with her servant had murdered her husband in 1835.

4 **Birthplace of Samuel Haughton:**

Born in Carlow December 1821, Rev. Samuel Haughton, Trinity College, was an Irish scientist who invented 'Haughton's Drop'. In 1866 Samuel developed a more humane method for execution by hanging, whereby the neck was broken at the time of the drop, so that the condemned person did not slowly strangle to death. His birthplace is marked by a plaque. The building is now in private ownership.

4b **Deighton Hall:**

This building was the County Courthouse and seat of the Grand Jury, until the early 1830s. In 1909 local businessman Joseph C. Deighton presented this building to St. Mary's Parish for use as a Parochial Hall. The prisoner holding cells were located in the basement with direct access to the courtroom and Lucinda Sly was tried here for the murder of her husband. Leading from Deighton Hall is the remaining section of Bridewell Lane which ran to the Carlow Gaol.

5 **Carlow Castle:**

Located at the meeting of the Rivers Barrow and Burren, the castle had four 25 feet thick towers and stood three storeys high, making it a strategic fortress which protected the river crossing and Carlow Town. It was built in the 13th century by William Marshal Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster, who had succeeded Strongbow, leader of the Norman invasion of Ireland. From 1391 to 1395 the Exchequer and Court of Common Pleas were located in and around the Castle, thus making Carlow the capital of Ireland for this period. It remained relatively unscathed until 1814 when Dr. Middleton, accidentally blew it up during works to convert it into a modern lunatic asylum, with only the west wall and two towers surviving.

6 **The River Barrow:**

The River Barrow is Ireland's second longest river flowing for 192km from the Slieve Bloom Mountains to the sea. For centuries the river was used by the large mills along its banks, some owned by the Barrow Milling Company and others by the Shackleton family. The Barrow was a significant commercial waterway until the 1960s, with river ports at Aghy, Carlow, Grangeamannagh and New Ross. Barges carried beet to Ireland's first sugar factory at Carlow and making barley to the Guinness Brewery, Dublin. Since the demise of river transport, the Barrow Towpath, which stretches some 114km is popular for cycling, walking and nature spotting.

7 **Wellington/Grangeacullen Bridge:**

Built in 1815, the five arched bridge, was named after The Duke of Wellington, who had defeated Napoleon that same year. Wellington Bridge is the lowest bridge on the River Barrow and is unusual in that it crosses the end of a small island in the river, and one of the arches, through which the canal traffic passes, is slightly separated from the others. Looking upstream the original canal stores, are now home to Carlow Rowing Club, one of Ireland's oldest sporting clubs.

8a **The Old Mill:**

Mills, such as this one, were dotted alongside the canal lock and weir on the River Barrow in Carlow representing the thriving milling and distillery industry of former times. This mill

was formerly one of Shackleton's Mills and is now in private ownership.

8b **Old RIC Barracks:**

The Old Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks housed Ireland's major police force prior to Irish independence. It is decorated with grotesque heads and a plaque of Hercules.

9 **St. Clare's Church & Poor Clare Monastery:**

Originally built as St. Anne's Church in 1852 and located on the Athy Road. It fell into disuse and was sold by the Church of Ireland in 1927 to the Catholic Parish of Grangeacullen. They moved it stone by stone across the River Barrow and rebuilt it on today's site. Unfortunately funds ran out before completion so the church lacks a spire. 'The Poor Clare Sisters' are an enclosed order of nuns who are devoted to a life of prayer and have lived in the monastery since 1893. www.poorclarescarlow.ie

10 **The Croppies Grave:**

Following the bloody battle in the Potato Market in May 1798, the bodies of the dead were buried here in a mass grave. The croppies was the name given to the United Irishmen after the habit of cropping their hair to mark their allegiance. This site is commemorated with a replica high cross which stands as testimony to those who died to further the cause of Irish freedom from a harsh regime.

11 **Town Park:**

This 12-acre park on the banks of the River Barrow features a safe and secure children's playground and many pieces of public art sculpture. Carlow's ancient past is reflected in the shape of the moor in the parkland area, with the river frontage and Millennium Bridge giving a contemporary, urban feel.

12 **Barrow Track Graveyard:**

The Old Graveyard dates from 1607 and was the main burial ground for the town until St. Mary's Cemetery, Old Dublin Road opened in 1893. There are a variety of headstones, slabs, metal crosses, memorials and some War Commission headstones. Among those buried here is Dr. James Keefe, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and founder of Carlow College.

15 **County Carlow Military Museum:**

The 'Old Church' in the grounds of St. Dymphna's Hospital, houses the Military Museum. The museum displays artefacts from the late 18th century and details the history of the Irish Army, Local Reserve Defence Forces, UN Peacekeeping, Carlow Militia, War of Independence and much more. 

14 **Scots Church:**

Scots Churches are rare, with only four known to be in existence in Ireland. It was designed by architect Thomas A. Cobden, who was also responsible for Carlow Cathedral, Bailykealy House and Duckett's Grove, outside Carlow Town. It is a curiously proportioned building with a tall pediment and no windows on the facade.

15 **Methodist Church:**

In 1892, this site was secured as the home of the Methodist chapel. The new site had been used as a quarry, so it had to be filled, before building could begin. The site was filled by using rubble from buildings being demolished in the town, for each load dumped at the site the carters were paid one penny, so it cost £5 to fill the site. In 1897, building work began and the church opened Friday, April 15th 1898.

16 **Carlow Courthouse:**

Designed in the 1830s by architect William Vitruvius Morrison, this building is one of Ireland's finest examples of ancient Greek revivalist architecture. The ancient Roman world is symbolised by the iron railings, which are in the form of the Roman axe, the fasces symbolise judicial power. The Court House has two large court rooms contained within the impressive granite decaagonal shaped building. The cannon is a Russian gun, captured during the Crimean War and commemorates all the Carlow people who fought in the conflict. The Courthouse is operated by the Court Services under the Department of Justice.

17 **The Assembly Rooms:**

The Assembly Rooms were built in 1794 and it is thought they were used by nobility and gentry of the county to host dinners, balls and musical performances. In 1899 the famous playwright George Bernard Shaw (pictured) the Assembly Rooms from his uncle, Walter Gurly. He later donated the building to Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin to use as a school and in 1923 it opened as Carlow's Technical School. Nowadays the Assembly Rooms house offices for Carlow County Council.

18 **Town Hall & Haymarket:**

Carlow Town Hall is situated on the north side of the Haymarket which was a main trading centre in Carlow. The Town Hall was designed by the church architect William Hague in 1884 and opened March 1886. Over the front door is the iron work of the old gas lamp which in 1891 was converted for electrical use. Carlow, after Dublin and Londonderry was the third town of the British Empire to have electricity.

19 **St. Mary's Church:**

St. Mary's Church is located in an area of long standing religious settlement, dating all

the way back to the 6th century. The main body of the church dates to 1727, but the tower and spire reaching 195 feet was designed by Thomas Cobden, and added in 1834. The interior retains its original galleries and contains several interesting monuments, including ones by neo-classical architect Sir Richard Morrison. His only other known monument is in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. This is the third St. Mary's Church to have been built on this site.

20 **The Cigar Divan:**

The Cigar Divan is the elder of only two cigar divans in Ireland, with a Victorian shop-front featuring elaborate iron panels below the windows. The name dates from the time when Turkish cigarettes were the height of fashion.

21 **Carlow College:**

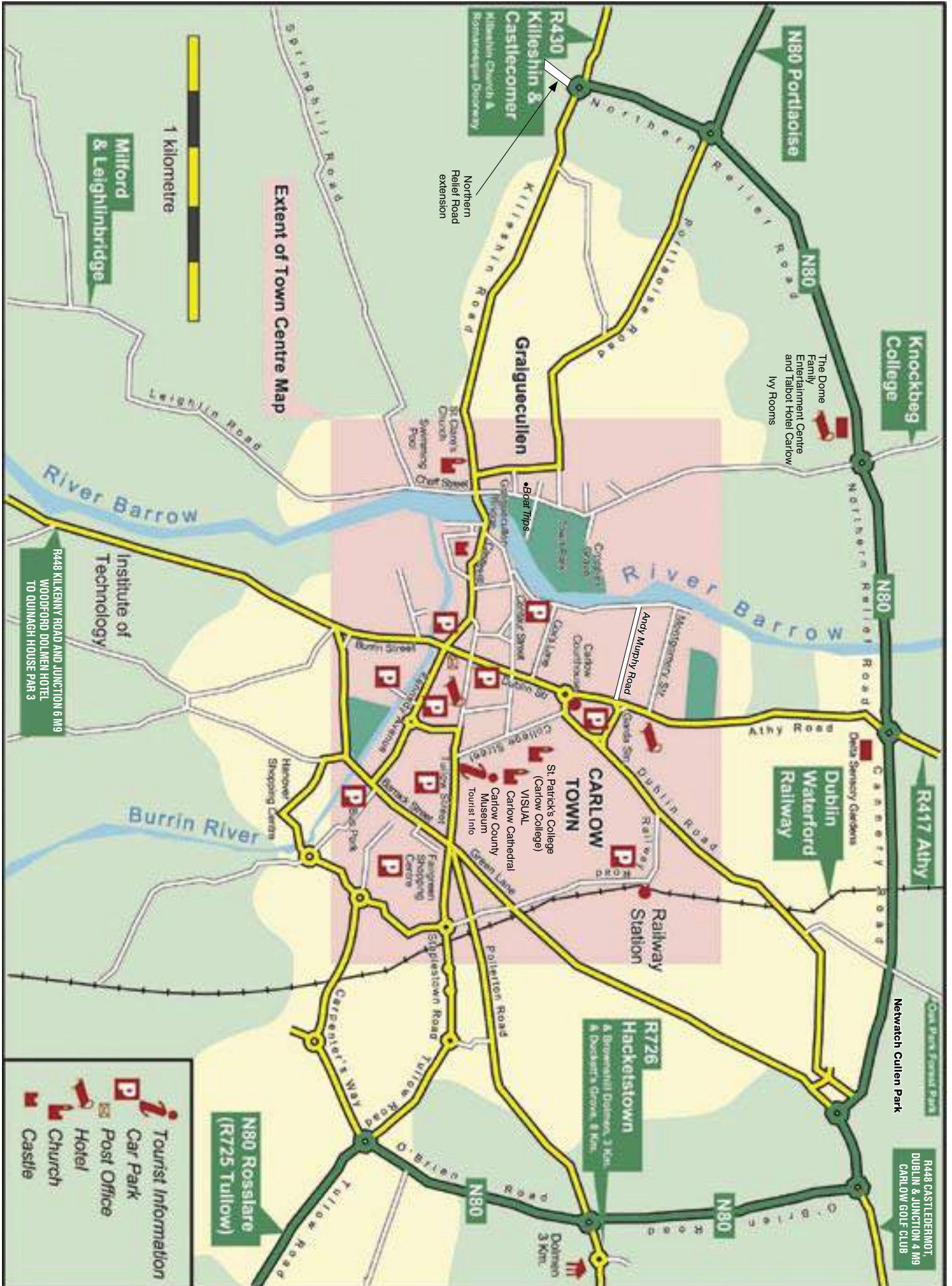
Ireland's oldest third level catholic educational institution, first opened in 1793, once the penal laws which restricted Catholic education were relaxed. The college educated males for the professions and for priesthood, and during 1793 - 2001 over 3,300 ordinands took place. The chapel of the Sacred Heart was erected to mark the centenary of the college but now functions as the College Library. Famous alumni include James Fitzan Lalor, the agrarian agitator and social activist, the Fenian John O'Leary and Frank O'Meara, the impressionist painter. The 1990s saw the College's return to its original role of educating the lay population. Carlow College is home to the Carlow Art Collection, a permanent public collection of art. www.carlowcollege.ie

22 **VISUAL:**

Situated in the grounds of Carlow College, VISUAL presents the best of local, national and international work in the visual and performing arts. A dynamic, multi-disciplinary arts facility, with four principal exhibition spaces with the main gallery recognised as Ireland's largest and most contemporary art space. The theatre is named after the famed playwright George Bernard Shaw who had strong connections with the area, his mother being a Gurly from the town. www.visualcarlow.ie

23 **Carlow Cathedral:**

This is the cathedral for the Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. In March 1828 the foundation stone was laid by the Diocese's most famous Bishop, James Doyle, known as J.K.L., Thomas Cobden and it is regarded as his most outstanding church building. It was among the first Catholic cathedrals consecrated following the act granting Catholic Emancipation in 1829 and it's construction cost £9,000 at the time. The neo-Gothic granite exterior features a magnificent entrance tower which rises 46 metres and may be modelled on the Cloth Hall in Bruges, Belgium and medieval towers in England.



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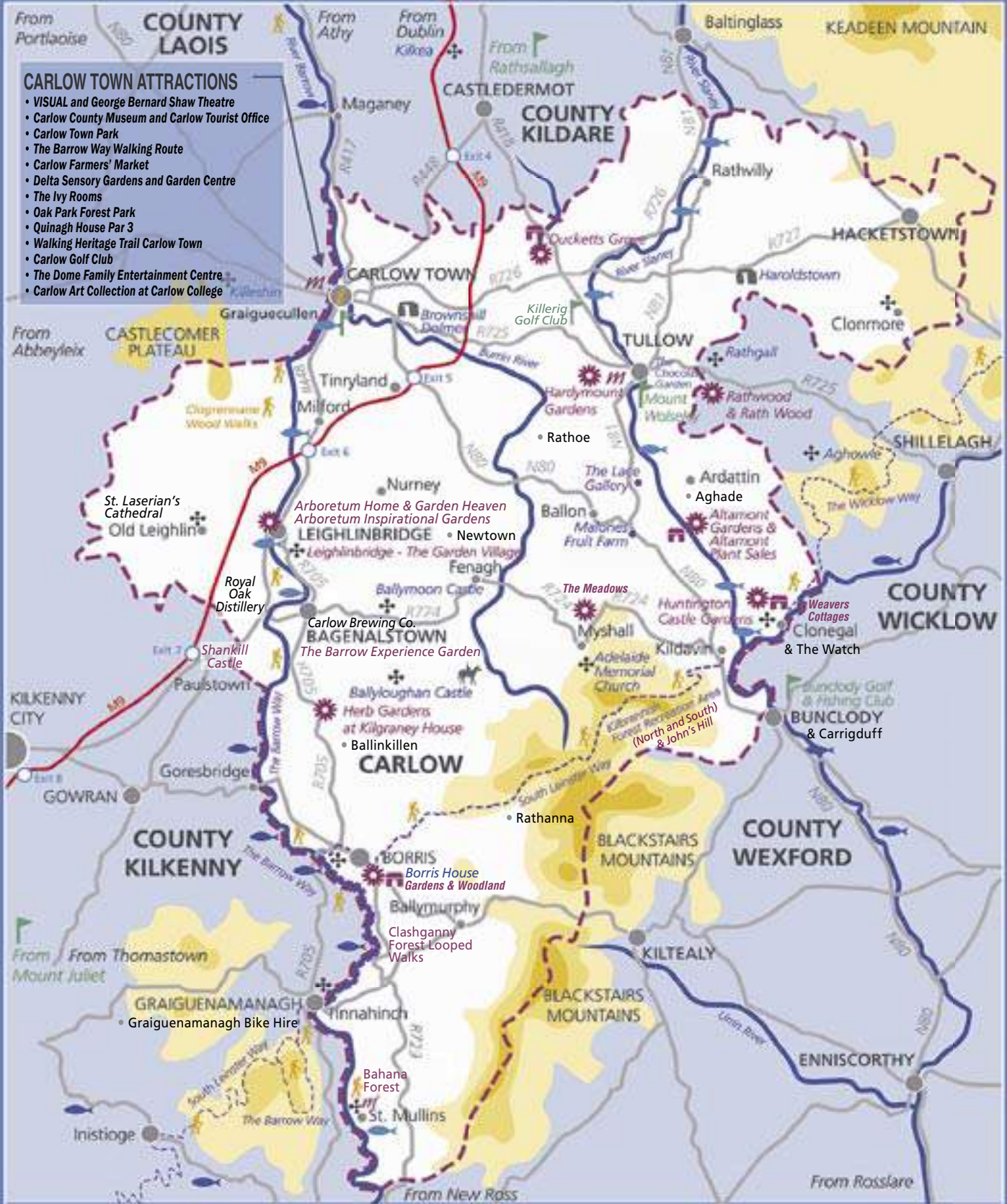
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Proprietor: Sharon Smyth





Carlow County Museum
College Street, Carlow Town.
R93 E3T2
t: 059-9131554
e: museum@carlowcoco.ie
w: www.carlowmuseum.ie

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Visiting the multi award-winning Carlow County Museum is a must. Be wowed by the 340 million year old fossil, the 20ft church pulpit and an exquisite 2mm Iron Age glass bead! Among the displays are exhibitions featuring: the magnificently hand carved 19th century wooden pulpit from Carlow Cathedral, one of the top 100 objects to view in an Irish museum; the gallows trap door from Carlow Gaol used in 19th century public executions; an exhibition on the Carlow Sugar Factory, Ireland's first and largest sugar factory, which was opened in 1926; the wonderful stained glass panel by Peadar Lamb commemorating the 1916 Rising and its Carlow links; archaeological finds from the Carlow bypass including the country's first ring brooch, courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Find out about some of Carlow's personalities; see the remains of Kevin Barry's last cigarette before he was executed in 1920 in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin at the age of just 18 for his role in the Irish War Of Independence; the wooden smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh of the 7th US Cavalry who was killed in the battle of Little Big Horn along with General Custer in 1876; John Tyndall, Carlow's prolific 19th century scientist whose discoveries, including the greenhouse effect still have an impact to this day. Carlow County Council in partnership with Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society has developed the museum, which is an "excellent use of an old building". The museum is part of Carlow town's Cultural Quarter and admission is free. The museum is self-guided but tours for groups (10+) can be pre-booked. The museum is essential on the itinerary of school tours, and students have the opportunity to handle historic objects as part of a tour.

OPENING HOURS

September – May, Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
June – August, Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 – 4.30 p.m.
Last admissions – half hour before closing.

Carlow Tourist Office,
College Street, Carlow R93 H738
t: 059-9130411
e: info@carlowtourism.com
w: www.carlowtourism.com



available free of charge including the *Carlow Garden Trail*, *South Carlow Adventure Trail*, *Mount Leinster Heritage Drive* and *A Guide to County Carlow* as well as other national publications.

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday 9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m. year round
Saturday 10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. September – May
and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. June to August.
Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 – 4.30 p.m. June – August

VISUAL

Explore, Engage and Inspire

Bring your family to explore this stunning building in the heart of Carlow Town.

Engage with artwork by national and international artists and be inspired by Ireland's largest and most spectacular space for contemporary art.

There are lots of activities to enjoy, from weekly parent and toddler art classes to family art workshops, youth theatre, intimate music gigs in the GB Bar, talks, workshops, tours, plus a 320-seat theatre with a packed programme of drama, film, dance and comedy.

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
Sunday 2 – 5 p.m.

Box Office is also open one hour before all events.



VISUAL

Old Dublin Road,
Carlow
R93 A3K1

t: 059-9172400

e: boxoffice@visualcarlow.ie

w: www.visualcarlow.ie/events



heritage attractions

Bishop Daniel Delany Museum

Church of the Most Holy
Rosary/Grounds of the
Brigidine Convent,
Chapel Lane,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.

GPS: 52.801616, -6.733108
t: 059-9151277
e: tullowparish@eircom.net

The main focus of the museum is a display of artefacts relating to Bishop Daniel Delany and to the educational work of the Brigidine Sisters and the Patrician Brothers. Both religious orders were founded in Tullow in 1807 and 1808 respectively. Over the past 200 plus years both congregations have founded many schools not only in Ireland but also in England, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, America, Ghana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Mexico and China. For many years the nearby Mount Wolseley estate (now a hotel) was the Patrician Brother's world headquarters. During the early years of the 19th century, the then Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Daniel Delany saw education as a pathway to a fuller and better life for all. In 1807 to progress his vision he founded a congregation of sisters, the Brigidine Sisters, named in honour of St. Brigid, the patroness of both Ireland and the diocese. In 1808 he founded the Patrician Brothers, named in honour of the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

HOW TO FIND US: Entrance to the museum is in the grounds of the Brigidine Convent in Tullow Town; or enter beside the altar of the Church of the Most Holy Rosary. There is ample car and bus parking.

ADMISSION: Free but donations welcome.

OPENING TIMES: Opening hours for 2020 have changed under the new Covid-19 restrictions.

For access to the museum please pre-book by contacting the Tullow Parish Community Centre at 059-9151277 or tullowparish@eircom.net during office hours (Monday – Friday). Guided tours available for schools and groups.



Borris House

Borris,
Co. Carlow.
R95 Y2T1

t: 059-9771884
e: info@borrishouse.com
w: www.borrishouse.com



Borris House, the ancestral home of the McMorrough Kavanaghs, Kings of Leinster, is one of the few Irish estates that can trace its history back to the Royal families of ancient Ireland and the tour covers all aspects of the history of the family and the house, from the original 15th century castle, through its many subsequent changes and alterations, right up to the present day. There are so many things to admire on the tour from the beauty of the Stapleton ceilings to the unique Chapel of St. Moling, as well as a room by room description of the exceptional architecture, antique furniture, porcelain and paintings on display. On view for the first time ever are the recently restored Egyptian watercolours of Lady Harriet Kavanagh and the Borris Lace. In the recently restored Granary visitors can watch a film on the history of the McMorrough Kavanaghs and Borris House, walk around the Lace Garden, visit the restored Victorian laundry and soak in the stunning views of Mount Leinster, the Blackstairs Mountains and Mount Brandon. The Store at Borris House sells local crafts, jewellery, ceramics, leather goods and textiles and is located at the front gate entrance. Check the website for precise opening times. Borris House is the venue for the Borris House Festival of Writing and Ideas, September 18th – 20th.

HOW TO FIND US: In the centre of Borris Village, in south Carlow. GPS: 52.598644, -6.926618.

OPENING TIMES: Open from mid-May to mid-September most Wednesdays – Fridays and occasional weekends. Please check the website for details. Lunch and/or tea can be provided for visiting groups with prior notice. **ADMISSION:** Fee applies, check website for further details.



Huntington Castle and Gardens

Clonegal,
Co. Carlow.
Y21 K237

t: 053-9377160
e: info@huntingtoncastle.com
w: www.huntingtoncastle.com



Huntington Castle, voted one of Ireland's top 20 Hidden Gems by *The Guardian* is set in over 160 acres of gardens, woodland and farmland. The castle features a fascinating guided tour which explains its 17th century history. The tour also features the world famous Temple of Goddess located in the old castle dungeons. The castle offers a fabulous woodland playground, as well as a charming tearoom and gift shop. The gardens are well worth a visit in their own right and were mainly laid out in the 17th century by the Esmondess who built Huntington Castle in 1625. They include the French limes on the avenue as well as the formal lawns to the side of the house, fish ponds on either side of the centre walk and the yew tree walk. Facilities include a children's adventure playground, coach and car park, guided castle tours, refurbished tea room, gift shop, toilets, woodland walks and rose gardens. Wheelchair access is limited to certain areas of the gardens only.

HOW TO FIND US: Entrance gates in the village of Clonegal.

OPENING TIMES: May – September 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily. House tours 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. daily. For special events outside these times see website – e.g.: Easter, Halloween and Christmas at the Castle. Open at other times by prior arrangement. **ADMISSION:** Gardens – adults €6, U12 €3. Usual concessions. House and gardens – adults €10, children €5. Family and group discounts available.



heritage attractions

Lisnavagh House and Gardens

Lisnavagh,
Rathvilly,
Co. Carlow.
R93 PX61
t: 059-9161473
e: events@lisnavagh.com
w: www.lisnavagh.com



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At Lisnavagh, business can be combined with pleasure in a location that is private, unique and easy-to-reach from all major routes. From private and corporate entertaining to high level business meetings, Lisnavagh offers the perfect retreat.

HOW TO FIND US: From Carlow Town follow signs for Hacketstown. At Killerig Cross Roads (R418) turn right and immediately left. Turn right at the T junction on the N81 Tullow/Rathvilly Road and immediately left. Turn left at Tobinstown (small hamlet just before a marked bend in the road). The entrance to Lisnavagh House is on the left 3km from Tobinstown Crossroads.

EVENTS: For event information and tickets email events@lisnavagh.com t: 059-9161473.



Shankill Castle and Gardens

Paulstown,
Co. Kilkenny.
R95 T8X7
t: 059-9726145
t: 087-3532761
e: info@shankillcastle.com
w: www.shankillcastle.com



A visit to Shankill Castle offers a unique experience combining history, art and nature. The castle remains a family home, and is often described as a living museum. It was first built as a Butler tower house beside the ruins of a pre-Reformation church. In 1708 it was rebuilt and set in a formal landscape. In the nineteenth century it was enlarged and castellated, adding a stable yard and castellated entrance to the demesne. Shankill is now home and studio to the artist Elizabeth Cope, and also hosts an international residency for artists. Visitors can take a guided tour of the castle and a stroll around the gardens, before stopping for a delicious homemade lunch, tea, coffee and cake in the Coach House Café, with fresh produce from the Victorian walled garden. Open from April to October. Check the website for booking details of the events programme.

HOW TO FIND US: In the village of Paulstown on the Carlow-Kilkenny border. From Carlow Town head 20km south towards Waterford/Kilkenny, taking exit 7 off the M9 motorway.

ADMISSION: €10 house and gardens, €5 gardens only. Concessions apply. Please purchase tickets at the Coach House Café.

OPENING TIMES: April – October, Thursday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. with castle tours at 3 p.m. Group bookings available all year round. Venue booking for public and private events.



St. Laserian's Cathedral

Old Leighlin,
Co. Carlow.
R93 N598
t: 059-9721570

A 13th century gem which nestles in the village of Old Leighlin (*Leath gleann – half-glen*). The original monastic settlement dates from the 7th century and at its peak had a community of 1,500 monks. A synod held here in 630 A.D. was decisive in reconciling the date of Easter for the Irish church. The cathedral embraces a fascinating and often violent history of Viking raids, murder and religious turbulence. Its 13th century nave and chancel and its 15th century tower and Lady Chapel remain largely unchanged. Also to be seen is the unique four-bay sedilia, the 12th and 13th century fonts and the splendid Catherine O'Brien East Window. Today, St. Laserian's remains an unspoilt and magical place. Nearby is St. Laserian's Well with its celtic cross believed to date from the time of the saint. Buses, educational and pilgrim tours welcome.

HOW TO FIND US: From Dublin/Waterford take exit 6 on M9 motorway and follow signs for Leighlinbridge. St. Laserian's Cathedral is signposted off the R448, 2km beyond the village of Leighlinbridge.

OPENING TIMES: By appointment.

ADMISSION: free, however a donation of €2 is greatly appreciated towards the cathedral's upkeep.



heritage attractions

St. Mullins Heritage Centre

St. Mullins,
Co. Carlow.
GPS: 52.488967, -6.927657
t: 087-9013672
e: stmheritage@gmail.com
w: www.stmullinsheritage
centre.com



The former Church of Ireland Church, originally built in 1811, now houses the St. Mullins Heritage Centre, situated beside the famous monastic ruins and cemetery. All aspects of local history including publications, church records, maps, old photographs and artefacts are displayed here and provide a fascinating account of village and rural life over the centuries. The exhibition presents eleven different storylines including Pattern Sunday, St. Moling, 1798, the River Barrow and the flour milling connection. Guided tours by appointment.
HOW TO FIND US: 14km south of Borris, off the R729 Borris – New Ross Road.
OPENING TIMES: Please refer to facebook.
ADMISSION: Adults €2, children free.



Tullow Museum

Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
R93 Y744
t: 087-2383515
w: www.tullowmuseum.com

Housed in an attractive, stone built, former Methodist church at the River Slaney Bridge. Tullow Museum features an eclectic collection of artefacts reflecting local history, in particular Fr. Murphy's connection with the town, including what are alleged to be his last vestments. Fr. Murphy championed Ireland's cause for freedom in the battles of 1798. He was eventually captured near Tullow and executed in the town square where a monument now stands in his memory. The museum also features a collection of local photographs and information on burial grave stones. The museum welcomes any information or artefacts for display purposes especially photographs (on loan or for gift).

HOW TO FIND US: Beside the River Slaney Bridge.
OPENING TIMES: Until end of October: Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2 – 4 p.m. Closed Monday and Saturday. Other times by appointment.
ADMISSION: free, voluntary contributions welcome.



Rathwood

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Tullow, Co. Carlow

Tel. 059 9156285

www.rathwood.com

The Weavers Cottages
Clonegal,
Co. Carlow.
Y21 K2X8
t: 053-9376749/
087-9489342
e: weaverscottage1@gmail.com

Collect your certificate for
completion of the Wicklow
Way walking route here.



The Durdin or Weavers Cottages were built by Alexander Durdin in the late 17th century. They were lived in by weavers when the trade was at its height and now feature many items, artefacts, furniture and pictures from bygone times. The development comprises a pair of semi-detached, two-bay, single-storey dormer cottages with attic conversion. Beautiful heritage garden to the rear featuring a variety of vegetables, and plants grown for the dyeing of wool used in weaving.
HOW TO FIND US: In the village of Clonegal which is situated 10km from the village of Ballon off the N80 and 17km from Tullow.
OPENING TIMES: Open all year round Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12 – 4 p.m.
ADM: free, voluntary contributions welcome.



The Lace Gallery
Carrigslaney,
Kilbride,
Co. Carlow.
R93 Y803
t: 059-9155676/
087-2886719
e: mary@thelacegallery.com
w: www.thelacegallery.com



Mary O' Neill makes small, delicate pieces of the famous Irish Carrickmacross Lace from her studio in Carrigslaney, close to Altamont Gardens. All pieces are designed by Mary featuring Irish symbols including the Shamrock and Claddagh. Each piece of her work is signed, dated and numbered and is presented as a framed wall piece that makes an attractive gift for any home.
HOW TO FIND US: 4km from the N80 at Kilbride Cross. Pass Altamont Gardens, the Lace Gallery is 2.5km from this point on the right hand side of the road.
OPENING TIMES: April-September, Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 2 – 6 p.m. Other times by arrangement.
ADMISSION: Free.



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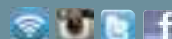


Food Served all Day



Relax in our Countryside Setting

Woodford Dolmen Hotel Kilkenny Road, Carlow T: 059 9142002
E: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie
Lat: 52.813761 Lon: 6.951320



The Chocolate Garden of Ireland

Rath,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
R93 PY82

t: 059-6481999
e: info@chocolategarden.ie
w: www.chocolategarden.ie



Absolute heaven for lovers of chocolate and ice cream everywhere. The Chocolate Garden of Ireland is a working chocolate and ice cream factory offering chocolate making sessions daily (without booking) and scheduled workshops (with booking on-line or by phone), with a café-ice cream parlour and free play area to suit tots to teens. Set in beautiful north-east Carlow, it's a must if you are in the area, whatever your age – you'll delight in its award-winning authentic chocolate experience and revel in the lovely aromas and tastes. Its café offers its own artisan ice cream, delicious sundaes and wide array of chocolates and treats. Afternoon tea and birthday parties available with advance booking. All chocolates are gluten free.



HOW TO FIND US: On the R725 between Tullow and Shillelagh, 5km from Tullow, next to Rathwood.
OPENING TIMES: Monday – Friday 10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday/Sunday/Bank Holidays 12 – 5 p.m. (5.30 p.m. April–September). Seasonal closure 25th December – 31st January. **ADMISSION:** Chocolate making workshops (€13.50 p.p. or €12.50 for four or more) and parties must be pre-booked. Chocolate mould-making from €10 p.p. is available daily, no booking necessary. Booking required with all groups (15+). No admission charge to café/shop.

family fun activities

The Big Blue Barn

Deerpark Business
Complex,
Dublin Road,
Carlow.

R93 YX97
t: 059-9131222
e: bigbluebarn@eircom.net
w: www.thebigbluebarn.net

The Big Blue Barn is over four floors and has a fantastic seven metre high spiral slide, four lane astra slide and a challenging slide for older children. Dedicated toddler area. Party rooms provide a fun venue with party packages that start at €10 per child. Parents are well catered for with a choice of a big breakfast, light lunch, delicious pizza, great coffee or tasty treat.

HOW TO FIND US: On the outskirts of Carlow Town (R448) in direction of M9 motorway near Castledermot (junction 4).

OPENING TIMES: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., seven days per week.
ADMISSION: 1.5 hours play €5 age three or under, 1.5 hours play €7 age four or over, €15 for three children.



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Tel: 059 91 80100 | www.mountwolseley.ie



family fun activities

The DOME Family Entertainment Centre

Carlow Business Park,
Portlaoise Road,
Graiguecullen,
Carlow.
R93 R886
t: 059-9164311
e: sales@dome.ie
w: www.dome.ie



The DOME Family Entertainment Centre is Carlow's only bowling venue, laser tag, children's play centre, games arcade and kids party venue rolled into one. Featuring pins on strings interactive bowling – the only pins on strings in the South East and a 10 pin bowling alley with touch screen monitors that can be enjoyed by all ages. All lanes are fully accessible to wheelchair users and are fitted with side bumpers so bowlers of all levels can strike out. The games arcade is full of interactive machines and pool tables. Congo Quest is an 8,000 square feet, 3D jungle life like experience. Facilities include ball pools, crawl tubes and slides, soccer court and a soft play area. Toddler mornings take place each Tuesday and Thursday with different activities each day for the little ones. Brand new state of the art laser zone – test your skills and abilities in the spaced themed arena – fun for ages 7 to 97! Each player, whether individually or on teams, uses their phaser to tag their opponent and score as many points as possible. No need for heavy vests and equipment, your opponent's phaser is your target! With three themed party rooms the DOME Family Entertainment Centre is also the ideal venue to host kids' birthday parties with a difference. Hours of entertainment guaranteed.

OPENING TIMES: Congo Quest 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily and the Bowling Laser Zone and Arcade is open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily. **ADMISSION:** Bowling €28 per hour. Congo Quest 5 years and under, €6, over 5 €7.50. Fiver Friday and other offers available. Laser Zone 16 years and up €7, under 16s €6.



The Ivy Rooms

Unit 8
Barrow Valley Retail Park,
Graiguecullen,
Carlow.
R93 T2W2
t: 059-9137714
e: info@ivyrooms.com



Eleven Championship Shendra snooker tables, eight English pool tables, six American pool tables and three table tennis tables plus a video games area. Venue for National and International Snooker Championships. Home to the Carlow Pool League. Diner open daily from 9 a.m. Monday-Friday and from 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Serving all day breakfast, burgers, chips and much more. **HOW TO FIND US:** Off Sleaty Street in Graiguecullen. **OPENING TIMES:** 9 a.m. until late, seven days per week. Booking facility available.

RATE PER HOUR: €12 (snooker), €10 (American pool and table tennis). €7 English pool. Discount for students, groups and senior citizens. Loyalty card scheme in operation.



Mad For Models

Burton Hall,
Carlow.
R93 W6Y3
t: 087-2670737
086-8246135
e: info@madformodels.ie
w: www.madformodels.ie



Mad For Models is a family-owned business based at Burton Hall, 2km from Duckett's Grove Historic House and Walled Gardens. An extensive range of farm toys for children from 3 years and collectable scale models from 14 years upwards. Tommy and Madeline pride themselves on keeping a full cross section of stock for the collector and visitor alike. The farm toy store stocks an amazing variety of different models for sale. Extensive collection of models on display. **HOW TO FIND US:** Signposted from R448 and Duckett's Grove. **OPENING TIMES:** Times and details available on www.madformodels.ie. **ADMISSION:** Free.



Mount Brandon
Pottery School
Tinnahinch,
Graigueamanagh,
Co. Kilkenny.
R95 X583
t: 085-1108257
e: mountbrandonpottery@gmail.com



Mount Brandon Pottery School is located on the stunning grounds of Mount Brandon Self-Catering Holiday Cottages, a mere five minutes' walk from the medieval town of Graigueamanagh. The pottery school is run by Carmen Wenner, a qualified potter, who is registered with the Crafts Council of Ireland. Students learn how to make pinch pots, coil pots and slab building as well as how to throw a pot on the electric potter's wheel. Pottery classes are small in order to give each student maximum attention. Choose from a two-hour taster class (if you've never done pottery before) or a four-week course to gain more insight into the art of pottery. The classes are available for all age groups and skill levels. If you love ceramics but don't have the time to attend a class, visit the studio to browse the wonderful creations made by Carmen.

HOW TO FIND US: .5km from Tinnahinch/Graigueamanagh on the Carlow-Kilkenny border.



guided tours

Candy Tours

t: John Candy
087-2632324
e: info@candytours.ie
w: www.candytours.ie



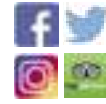
Custom designed tours throughout Carlow and Ireland. Tours on offer include rambling house tours, private and family tours, garden, religious or day trip tours. Experienced guide John Candy will accompany you throughout your trip offering a mix of interesting and historic facts. Entertainment each evening of tour. Full itinerary provided based on client requirements.



Carlow Tours

t: Bianka McDonagh
087-6509880
e: bianka@carlowtours.ie
w: www.carlowtours.ie

Discover hidden gems off the beaten tourist track with your Fáilte Ireland approved National Tour Guide Bianka McDonagh. Customise your day trip or your package and create memories for life. Themed tours also available. Ideal for individuals and small groups. Also available in the German language. Create memories that will last a lifetime.



immersive irish cultural experiences

Equinox Education Services

Carlow Gateway Business Centre,
Athy Road, Carlow,
R93 C7P6
t: 059-9179340
e: info@equinox4study.com
www.equinoxlearnabroad.com



Equinox Education Service (EES) is a multi award-winning Carlow-based business with over 20 years experience of providing immersive, tailor-made educational and cultural experiences here in Ireland and worldwide for individuals and groups, that are designed to enrich each participant's journey towards learning a new culture or improving their language ability within safe and secure environments. In Ireland, EES bespoke tailor-made educational and cultural programmes for overseas students are renowned for facilitating diverse and unique experiences. These have included specialised entrepreneurial programmes for teens and tailor-made programmes for music groups and marching bands, as well as sports, art and school integration programmes (where visiting and local Irish schools come together to participate in shared cultural programmes). All of EES students benefit from an immersive Irish host family experience and classes that provide for a structured approach to cultural learning, organised activities and excursions. Through our extensive partnerships with educational and cultural organisations worldwide, Equinox also offer short and long-term overseas study and cultural programmes for local students of all ages.





Equinox Education Services Ltd.

Carlow Gateway Business Centre, Athy Road, Carlow, R93 C7P6, Ireland.
T: +353 (0)59 917 9340 E: info@equinox4study.com

www.equinox4study.com  (087) 997 5625



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2005 - 2020

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- ✓ Language + Cultural programmes
- ✓ Immersive Cultural programmes
- ✓ International Arts and Music programmes
- ✓ Entrepreneurial programmes for Teens

Proudly partnering and supporting local tourism, schools, third-level institutions, host families and students in Carlow and Ireland





artisan food and drink attractions

Royal Oak Distillery

Royal Oak,
Co. Carlow.
R21 E086

t: 059-9186653

e: info@royaloakdistillery.com

w: www.royaloakdistillery.com



The Royal Oak Distillery is a world class distillery producing hand crafted Irish whiskey, proudly located on an 18th century estate in Ireland's Ancient East region. Visitors can experience a revival of historic tradition as well as forging ahead with innovation in a fully guided, multi-sensory tour of one of Ireland's largest operational whiskey distilleries: see first-hand how all three styles of Irish whiskey – pot still, malt and grain – are created! The Royal Oak Distillery is unique in being the first to distil all three types of whiskey under one roof.

Pick from our great range of tasting experiences at our historic Royal Oak Estate, taking in Holloiden House (1755) and the beautiful scenery that makes Royal Oak the perfect place to relax while learning about our great crafted whiskeys.

HOW TO FIND US: On the Carlow/Kilkenny Road R448 take turn off on to R724, first left turn on to Royal Oak Road. Royal Oak Distillery is 300m on the right. From M9 exit at junction 6 or 7.

OPENING TIMES: Please see website for full times, booking and admission.



Carlow Brewing Company

Muine Bheag Business Park,
Royal Oak Road,
Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
R21 H960

t: 059-9720509

e: info@carlowbrewing.com

w: www.carlowbrewing.com



Take a look behind the scenes at one of Ireland's craft brewing pioneers at Carlow Brewing Company. Celebrating 25 years in 2021, the Carlow Brewing Company owned by the O'Hara family, brew the critically acclaimed O'Hara's Irish craft beer range, Falling Apple Cider and Craigies Cider. Inspired by our brewing heritage and embracing modern Ireland, the O'Hara's brewing team continue to revive the old and discover new craft beer styles, keeping it real and brewing in the flavour. O'Hara's craft beers are available nationwide in Ireland and in over 35 countries around the world in pubs, restaurants and off-licences.

HOW TO FIND US: Carlow Brewing Company is situated off the R448 Carlow-Kilkenny Road at the Royal Oak turn off. 1km from here in direction of Bagenalstown, on right hand side. **OPENING TIMES:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Brewery tours available on Friday afternoons, by prior appointment. **ADMISSION:** Adults: €10, group rates (10+): €7.50.



Carlow Farmers Market

Potato Market /
Liberty Tree,
Carlow Town.

GPS: 52.835270, -6.929374

e: info@carlowfarmersmarket.com

w: www.carlowfarmersmarket.com



Celebrating its 16th year in business in 2020, Carlow Farmers' Market is widely recognised as one of the best run producer markets in the country. It has proven hugely popular as customers embrace its unique and relaxed ambience and the wide variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, meats, juices and home baking on offer. Also available are organic meats, cheeses, juices, jams, chutneys, free-range and farm fresh eggs. The wide selection of home baking includes gluten-free and spelt products, other options include raw food, wheat grass and a selection of food to go. Fresh flowers and bedding plants are also on sale in season. There is a shared craft stall which rotates between pottery and other craft items. With a casual yet intimate atmosphere, the market is a great place to spend a Saturday morning while purchasing excellent local produce. **ADMISSION:** Free.

HOW TO FIND US: Every Saturday, Potato Market and Liberty Tree, Carlow Town 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Malone's Fruit Farm and Farm Shop, Artisan Food and Gifts

Closh, Ballon, Co. Carlow.
R93 KX30

t: 059-9159477

m: 086-8472765

e: info@malonefruitfarm.com

w: www.malonefruitfarm.com



Malone's Fruit Farm is a family-run business growing a variety of soft fruit. The farm shop sells a large selection of artisan food and gifts with particular attention to local and Irish products. Fresh fruit is available in the farm shop from mid-May to early October while frozen fruit and a full range of homemade products are available all year round. The Malone family is proud of their traditional homemade recipes and quality soft fruit which have proven very successful in the market. The farm grows strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, loganberries, tayberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants, whitecurrants and rhubarb. **HOW TO FIND US:** Located outside the village of Ballon on the N80 near the N81 junction, 1.5km from Altamont Gardens, 19km from Carlow, 1km from Ballon and 8km from Tullow and Bunclody. **OPEN:** June 1st – October 31st: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday. November – May 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thursday – Saturday, 1 – 5 p.m. Sunday. **ADMISSION:** Free.



carlow food producers

Sunshine Juice

Park, Tinryland,
Co. Carlow.
R93 F2A0

t: 059-9134989

e: info@sunshinejuice.com

w: www.walshes.ie/
www.vegoutjuices.ie



Paul Walshe founded Sunshine Juice in 1998. Their products have won more than 19 Great Taste Awards and over six Blás na hÉireann Awards. They produce juice and fresh fruit pots for many of the big retailers in Ireland along with many four and five star hotels. They also have two of their own brands; Walshe's Really Fresh (a family, friendly range of juices, smoothies and fruit pots) and VEG OUT (a healthy vegetable juice brand).

Available from Rath's Londis, Pollerton Road, Carlow, and also at O'Brien's, Topaz, Mace, Spar and Bea Nice Café.





Come visit & savour Royal Oak Distillery... where hope & history rhyme

Set in the heart of the barley basket of Ireland, Royal Oak Distillery is located on the majestic grounds of an 18th century estate.

This local distillery revives historic tradition as well as forging ahead with innovation as they return the craft of whiskey distilling to Carlow after two centuries. Manually operated by our local distillery team, we are unique in being the first to distill all three styles of Irish whiskey - pot still, malt and grain - in the one still house, using both copper pot and column stills.

Come see and learn about the art of distilling with our fully guided tour and then afterward, relax in our still house bar as you savour some premium whiskey as you take in the a panoramic view of the beautiful grounds.

To find our about times and tours, visit our website with online booking facilities available.

ROYAL OAK
DISTILLERY

For opening times
Tel: (059) 91 86653
www.royaloakdistillery.com

carlow food producers

A & K Real Foods

Weekly every
Saturday morning at
Carlow Farmers Market
t: 045-406794,
087-4129488
e: anlardunlavin@gmail.com



A & K Real Food is home made and healthy – Agnieszka and Krystian's talent lies in creating products that let the flavour of the ingredients speak for themselves. Their healthy snack alternatives are based on local, naturally grown, organically and sustainably raised ingredients, bursting with flavour and full of nutrition. The extensive range includes kombucha, raw vegan breddies, energy bars, wheatgrass, sauerkraut and a range of traditional sourdough breads and are suitable for vegans, coeliacs and diabetics or for those seeking a healthier way of life. **Available from Carlow Farmers' Market every Saturday and selected health food shops nationwide.** Recently opened Café "An Lár" with health food shop: vegan/vegetarian organic or local in Dunlavin at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains (West Wicklow).



Carlow Farmhouse Cheese

Ballybrommell,
Fenagh,
Co. Carlow.
t: 087-6124452
e: carlowfarmhousecheese@gmail.com
w: www.carlowfarmhousecheese.com



new
2020

Carlow Farmhouse Cheese is situated on a farm in the centre of the county, milking dairy sheep and some goats. The dairy sheep provide the milk for a hard pecorino type cheese, which may be matured for up to two years. The goat's milk is used to make a tomme type cheese. Cow's milk is bought from a neighbouring farmer and a small amount of cow cheese is made to complement the sheep and goat milk. **All available in the weekly Carlow Farmers Market – every Saturday at Potato Market and Coolanowle Food Hall, cheese counter on Dublin Street.** A new addition to the range of cheeses for 2020 is Vincenzo's Sheep Cheese – a pecorino using both lamb and kid rennet in the Italian tradition – made by Vincenzo LaMana in County Carlow. Information and cheese available from Vincenzo on 085 – 7767617 and via facebook. **This is a working farm, but may be visited by appointment.**



Coolanowle Organic Farm

Ballickmoyler,
Co. Carlow.
R93 C3K4
t: 059-8625176
e: info@coolanowle.com
w: www.coolanowle.com



Coolanowle Organics is a small, family run business based at Coolanowle Organic Farm situated 10km from Carlow Town. Having converted the farm to organic in 2001 the Mulhalls started selling their organic meats including beef, lamb, poultry and pork. They operate from their meat production/processing facility where they make all their organic products which are available for sale weekly at Kilkenny Farmers Market and farmers markets throughout Dublin. Customers can also order online and get free delivery from the online shop www.organicmeat.ie or alternatively they can place their order by telephone and collect on-site if desired. The property also offers five star B&B accommodation and features its own beautiful barn conversion which caters for family/ group parties and small conferences. They use their own organic meat produce in all their catering.



Coolattin Cheddar

Knockeen House,
Knockeen, Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
R93 C2D8
t: 086-3894482
e: coolattincheddar16@gmail.com
w: www.coolattincheddar.ie



Made on Tom Burgess' family farm in the Wicklow Hills, Coolattin Mature Raw Milk Cheddar is one of only a handful of authentic cheddar style Irish farm cheeses. It is a seasonal cheese, made in the summer when the cows are grazing clover-rich pasture, the ideal diet for cheese processing milk. **Visitors will find Tom's cheese countrywide at farmers' markets, at specialist shops including Malone's Fruit Farm & Farm Shop, Ballon, Ward's, Tullow, Avoca, Coolanowle Food Hall, Tinahely Farm, Fallon & Byrne and good food outlets nationwide.** Coolattin Cheddar is one of Ireland's longest established and most popular farmhouse cheeses – one of the most enduring success stories of the renaissance of artisan cheese making in Ireland.



Gaelic Escargot

Garryhill,
Co. Carlow.
t: 085-1000919
e: gaelicescargot@gmail.com
w: www.gaelicescargot.com



Gaelic Escargot is the first snail farm in Ireland and the only Research and Development Centre for the production of free-range escargots. They are located in Garryhill, Co. Carlow and have been researching and farming snails since 2013, with a particular emphasis on free-range and sustainable methods. Today they distribute Irish escargots to the food service sector on an international scale. They also provide full mentoring for existing snail farmers as well as to those aspiring, offering farming courses, breeding stock and ongoing support. To date they have helped create more than 20 new snail farms across the country.



The Village Dairy

Clonmore Business Park,
Clonmore, Killeshin,
Co. Carlow.
R93 V2P2
t: 059-9143437
e: noel@villagedairy.ie
w: www.villagedairy.ie



The Village Dairy is a small, local, family run dairy based in Killeshin on the Carlow – Laois border. The Village Dairy produces a variety of craft milk and cream products, including fresh milk and cream, organic milk and cream and Jersey milk. The Village Dairy is a multi award-winning dairy delivering to speciality coffee shops, hotels and restaurants. They take pride in supplying a high-quality product to their customers both locally and nationally, getting milk from the farm to the customer in just 24 hours. The milk is pasteurised and homogenised but is tampered with as little as possible to maintain its great natural flavour. Gold, silver and bronze medal winner Irish Food Awards. **Available from most local retail shops in Carlow.**



Ansbro Mouldings

Barrack Street,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
t: 059-9145729
e: ansbrojames@yahoo.ie
w: www.ansbromouldings.com



Ansbro Mouldings showroom is based beside the pedestrian lights in The Square in Tullow Town and has a selection of small crafted products such as ornate mirror frames, gargoyles, skulls, corbels and ceiling roses and unusual moulded designs for table displays. They supply and fit all types of interior and exterior plaster and concrete mouldings and are experts in the area of restoration. They also provide a hand moulding service in house. Their work can be seen at Newman House, Trim Courthouse, Faithlegg Hotel, Killashee House Hotel and Orwell Park to name but a few.



Ballyshane Studio

The Courtyard at
Duckett's Grove, Carlow.
R93 RF80
t: 086-4668118
e: studio@ballyshane.com
w: www.ballyshane.com



Award winning Ballyshane Studios create beautiful wooden pieces, handcrafted using locally sourced Irish hardwood. Ballyshane was created by William McHutcheon and Cheryl Stanley and is set in the beautiful surrounds of Duckett's Grove Estate. William has been woodturning for over 17 years and along with Cheryl, they have a massive passion for wood and Irish design. Each piece of furniture, chopping boards and bowls is unique and made using only sustainable and traceable Irish hardwoods. The studio is open by appointment only. **HOW TO FIND US:** In the courtyard of Duckett's Grove Historic House and Walled Gardens. For directions see page 22.



Cushendale Woollen Mills

Graigenamanagh,
Co. Kilkenny.
R95 PP83
t: 059-9724118
e: info@cushendale.ie
w: www.cushendale.ie



Cushendale is one of the few remaining Irish woollen mills continuing to create quality authentic textiles from the fleece of Irish sheep at their historic mill. The first mill was established on this site in 1204 by Cistercian monks, and the Cushen family trace their weaving heritage as far back as 1778. Visit their historic mill and shop to see where they design and create quality bespoke textiles and yarns from Irish wool, lambswool and mohair.

SHOP OPENING TIMES: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

new 2020 **Mill Tours:** A look behind the scenes of the mill is available to visitors in a guided tour. Truly worth a visit. April – September, Tuesday and Thursday 3 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. Pre-booking required.

HOW TO FIND US: In the town of Graigenamanagh adjoining the south Carlow village of Tinnahinch.



Donard Workshop

Ballymoon,
Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow.
R21 PX67
t: 087-7900044
e: marydoyle.donardworkshop@gmail.com



Mary Doyle began working in the craft industry when she was 18 years old. Originally, Mary started her business in her native Donard, County Wicklow, designing and making traditional handmade dolls and slippers. Mary makes unique Irish character dolls and her signature Donegal tweed slippers, which are available in children and adult sizes. All her products are synonymous with the best Celtic contemporary design and are guaranteed Irish handmade. Mary's vast experience manifests itself in the uniqueness and quality of her products which are in great demand in Ireland and worldwide. **Available directly from Donard Workshop or via the following stockists:** Ardmore Pottery, Ardmore, County Waterford; The Woollen Mills, Glendalough, County Wicklow; Studio Donegal, Kilcar, County Donegal and Eddie Doherty's, Ardara, County Donegal.



Duiske Glass Gift Shop

High Street,
Graigenamanagh,
Co. Kilkenny.
R95 AH98
t: 059-9724174
e: info@duiskeglasskilkenny.ie
w: www.duiskeglasskilkenny.ie



Duiske Glass, a family-run business, was founded in 1974 by Maureen and the late Harry O'Shea. Duiske Glass Gift Shop is regarded as one of Ireland's best loved treasures with a wide selection of traditional and modern gifts.

Renowned for its grapevine cut wine glasses, crystal and giftware which are now exclusively available at Duiske Glass. From handmade jewellery, dazzling crystal and hand-thrown pottery to contemporary interior design, you can be sure to find some wonderful Irish and internationally designed products to suit your needs at Duiske Glass. Choose from an array of top Irish brands including Tipperary Crystal, Newbridge Silverware, Absolute Jewellery, Paul Maloney and Shannonbridge Pottery. Duiske Glass offers a bespoke service whereby almost any piece of glassware or crystal can be enhanced with personalised engraving to suit every occasion from personalised and corporate gifts to sports and achievement awards.

OPENING TIMES: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Open Sunday for groups by appointment only.

HOW TO FIND US: In the town of Graigenamanagh adjoining the south Carlow village of Tinnahinch.



Lazer Now

Old Chapel Lane,
Tullow, Co. Carlow.
t: 087-7797719
e: hello@lazernow.com
w: www.lazernow.com



A multi-disciplinary award-winning lazer engraving studio specialising in corporate gifts, marketing giveaways, distinct image plaques, retirement gifts, wall plates, presentation pieces and everything in between! You imagine it, we'll design and craft it. A family run business they also provide personalised slate engraved pieces for such occasions as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and presentation pieces. Contract lasering for craft and design companies also available. **For all requirements contact Ann Duffy on 087-7797719.**



carlow craft producers

NicAngels Candles

The Courtyard at
Duckett's Grove,
Kneestown, Co. Carlow.
R93 RF80

t: 085-1471465
e: nicangelsinfo@gmail.com
w: nicangelscandles.com



NicAngels Candles individually, hand marble, fragrance-free Irish-made dinner candles creating unique patterns on each. They also hand paint glass candle holders to accompany their candles, this is done on site in Duckett's Grove. Their attractive craft unit at Duckett's Grove also features a selection of gift ideas from other crafters. Bespoke service also available.

OPENING TIMES: February to April and September to November, Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. July and August, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For May and June opening times see facebook NicAngels Candles and Gift Shop Duckett's Grove.



Turra Crafts

Turra Craft Farm,
Ballickmoyler,
Co. Carlow.

t: 087-6856388
e: turracrafts@gmail.com
w: turracrafts.com



Turra Crafts is a small, family run business specialising in handmade giftware and is based in Carlow with two main collections – The Stóirín Collection, which is a stone story collection, and the Sona Collection which are button portraits. The Stóirín ('Little Treasure' in Irish) Collection has been designed to fit occasions from birthday gifts to weddings, family occasions and anything in between, using quotes in a lot of the pieces. The Sona Collection are button figures created to represent each family member, including pets with their names positioned beneath each member. The name Sona 'happy in Irish' was chosen as it is a fun picture to incorporate all the family – two and four legged! Available online and at Duckett's Grove craft fairs.



english language schools

Carlow International English Language School (CIELS)

Askea, Carlow.
R93 K5P2

Office meetings by appointment only.
t/f: 059-9142066

e: info@ciels.ie w: www.ciels.ie
Dave Barron (B.A., M.Ed., Dip.Ed.
Management): 087-2204488

Catherine Barron (Accommodation, HL, Garda Vetting,
Child Protection Trained Officer): 086-8621266

Danny Barron (BBS, Cambridge DELTA): 086-4060804

CIELS is unique in Carlow: the only English language school that was founded and run by a fully qualified mainstream secondary school teacher, Dave Barron, with English being one of his teaching subjects; the longest running recognised English language school (c.26 years). CIELS is a family-run school of English language and Irish culture; its policy is to welcome small groups and offer high quality service and programmes. It is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills via QQI/ACELS (Quality & Qualifications Ireland/Accreditation and Coordination of English Language Schools). Its teachers are all qualified to master's level and have many years' experience in delivering English language programmes. CIELS is a member and supporter of Carlow Tourism. It continues to promote language tourism for the benefit of its students and the Carlow community. In conjunction with Carlow Tourism and Carlow Institute of Further Education, CIELS specialises in the areas of Junior Programmes (summer and winter), vocational training with English, school integration programmes, English for academic purpose and Erasmus + programmes. CIELS has also designed and piloted a European Erasmus + programme with partners in the Netherlands and Finland. Testimony to the quality of its programmes is the amount of repeat business it enjoys from long standing business partners.



English Language Ireland

The Schoolhouse,
O'Brien Road, Carlow.
R93 R280 t: 059-9140227

Contact person: Amanda Kelly – Business Development Manager
e: info@englishlanguage.ie w: www.englishlanguage.ie

English Language Ireland (ELI) is a world-class learning facility where students from across the globe improve their English skills while enjoying life in Ireland. The school is friendly and welcoming as is Carlow Town. ELI pride themselves on small classes and individual attention ensuring student's time is as memorable and enjoyable as possible. Founded in 2000, their years of experience ensure that courses are delivered with the highest levels of standard and quality. ELI is an ACELS accredited school and members of Marketing English in Ireland, the leading quality and assurance association of English language schools in Ireland. They have a team of highly qualified and experienced teachers together with over 350 local families, who provide immensely memorable home stays to students. The emphasis is on quality learning in a personal, relaxed and friendly environment. The school offers a range of programmes to suit all ages including Adult General English (full and part-time), Summer Junior Camps, High School (integration and full or part academic year), European funded programmes, mini-stays and work experience as well as IELTS and Cambridge exam preparation courses.



Bar 1808

Step House Hotel,
Main Street,
Borris, Co. Carlow.
R95 V2CR
t: 059-9773209
e: info@stephousehotel.ie
w: www.stephousehotel.ie

take-away
options



Open Wednesday to Sunday serving lunch
(12.30 – 2.30 p.m.), afternoon menu (12.30
– 6 p.m.) and à la carte from 6 – 9 p.m.

The Step House Hotel, a family run boutique hotel, is located in the centre of the pretty heritage village of Borris colloquially known as 'Granite Town'. The Coady family are at hand to play host to some of the great stories of Ireland's Ancient East with the hotel nestled in the valley of the Blackstairs Mountains. Bar 1808 consistently serves a combination of local produce and French flair with celebrated head chef Alan Foley regularly featured as a cooking demonstrator on TV3's *Ireland AM*. Enjoy the best of Carlow's produce from locally sourced beef and pork to locally crafted gins and pale ale with a fully licensed bar.



Brooks

Dinn Rí,
Tullow Street, Carlow.
R93 C8X5
t: 059-9133111
e: info@dinnri.com
w: www.dinnri.com
f: www.facebook.com/BrooksCarlow

take-away
options



Open daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or try out
the casual evening dining menu available from
5 p.m. until late each Wednesday – Sunday.

Situated in the heart of Carlow, Brooks has fabulous décor, a bustling ambience and a delicious selection of menu options with something to suit everyone's taste. This includes light bites, stone baked pizzas, scrumptious burgers, super-food salads, sandwiches and wraps, a range of classic steak, chicken and seafood dishes, speciality teas and coffees, home-baked pastries and a variety of other delightful treats. At Brooks you can enjoy an array of fresh, tasty and healthy menu options made with local ingredients. Of course there are also options for those with food sensitivities. Additionally, there is a full bar and a superb wine list.



Café de Mode

Chapel Street, Ballon,
Co. Carlow.
R93 T226
t: 087-4192355
e: cafedemode101@gmail.com
w: www.cafedemode.ie
Open Tuesday – Sunday and
Bank Holiday Mondays.

take-away
options



Winner of Carlow's Hidden Gem 2018 – (County Carlow Chamber), winner of Best Café in Leinster 2017 (Restaurant Association of Ireland) and Rural Enterprise Champion 2018 with Carlow Local Enterprise Office. Family run with tasteful décor, Café de Mode offers customers a relaxing environment in which to enjoy a varied menu from gourmet sandwiches to lite bites, baked potatoes, homemade pancakes, scones, sweet treats and award-winning coffee. Situated off the main N80 in the beautiful village of Ballon.

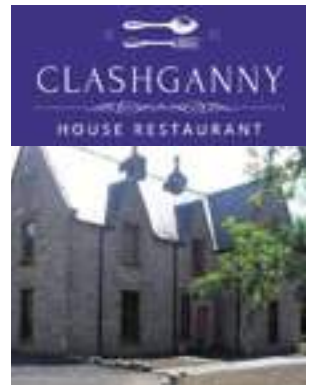


Clashganny House Restaurant

Clashganny,
Borris,
Co. Carlow.
R95 C792
t: 059-9771003
e: clashgannyhouse@gmail.com
w: www.clashgannyhouse.com
Wed. – Sat. from 6 p.m. for dinner
Sun. lunch from 12.30 p.m.



Rob and Karen White own and run Clashganny House Restaurant just outside the picturesque village of Borris. The restaurant was voted "Best Newcomer 2014" in the *Georgina Campbell Guide*, "Best Fine Dining Establishment", "Best Eating Establishment", "Carlow Venue of the Year Award" and "Best Restaurant" in the Carlow Chamber Awards 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence 2015 – 2019. Rob won Best Chef in Carlow at the Restaurant Association of Ireland Awards in 2020. Fully licensed restaurant serving wine, beer and spirits. Take-away tea/coffee all day Wed. – Sun. "With Robert's excellent cooking, Karen's warmly professional supervision of the dining rooms and the wonderful setting, Clashganny House offers an accessible treat for discerning diners and is set to become a key destination". Georgina Campbell.



The Coach House Café

@ Shankill Castle
Shankill Castle,
Paulstown,
Co. Kilkenny.
R95 T8X7
t: 086-3971748
e: info@shankillcastle.com
w: www.shankillcastle.com



Set in Shankill Castle's 170-year-old stable yard, the Coach House Café offers light lunches, homemade cakes, organic coffee and speciality teas in a beautiful setting with indoor and outdoor seating. Everything is made from scratch with seasonal ingredients grown in the walled garden or sourced from local producers, and organic where possible. Artwork by Elizabeth Cope is on display, and a selection of jams and juices available to purchase. Take-away available.

Opening hours: April – October, Thursday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Facilities:** Parking, wheelchair accessible.



**Country Kitchen
Restaurant**

Haddens Centre,
15 Tullow Street,
Carlow.
R93 W6P0
t: 059-9140613
Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday

take-away
options

A wide range of food from an extensive salad bar including home cooked meats, scones and sandwiches. Breakfast and hot lunch served daily. Fresh home baking is a hallmark of this premises with all food cooked on site. Guests can also dine in the outdoor terrace and all food is available for take-away. Celebrating 34 years in business in Carlow with daily specials. Home cooked gluten-free meals and slimmer's healthy options also available.



**The Curry Garden
Indian Restaurant**
Graigue Village
Shopping Centre,
Graiguecullen,
Carlow.

R93 A2C9
t: 059-9133422 / 087-9360991
e: info@currygardencarlow.ie

take-away
options



From the tastiest starters to the creamiest or hottest curries, there's something on the menu of the Curry Garden Indian Restaurant to suit all tastes. The fully air-conditioned 100 seater restaurant offers freshly prepared dishes using spices and herbs that are made fresh from local produce, all of which are 99.99% gluten free and free from artificial flavours, additives or MSG. All parties catered for in one of the private, spacious function rooms or take-away for an outside catering event. Ample free and secure car parking available at all times with bus tours and large groups very welcome. Take-away and delivery service also available.



La Bohème
Flemington House,
1 Brown Street,
Carlow.

R93 WOD1
t: 059-9164832 / 089-2394812
e: labohemecarlow@gmail.com
w: www.labohemecarlow.com



La Bohème is Carlow's newest and only fully licensed bar and tapas outlet. Fitted out to the highest level and with award-winning catering staff, it offers a true alternative in levels of comfort and service in Carlow Town. Current winner of the County Carlow Chamber of Commerce Business Award for 'Best Licenced Premises' in Carlow Town and county. Located in the centre of the town's cultural quarter, opposite Carlow Cathedral and VISUAL Arts Centre, it can only be described as 'high end' and provides guests with an experience they will want to repeat. Offers three bars, restaurant and music venue.



Coolanowle Foodhall
7-8 Dublin Street,
Carlow.

R93 E434
t: 059 - 9117391
e: info@coolanowlefoodhall.ie
w: www.coolanowlefoodhall.ie
Hub for neighbour food
each Friday from 4.30 - 6.30 p.m.
Order online www.neighbourfoodcarlow.ie



new 2020 Coolanowle Foodhall is a family owned and managed foodie haven situated on Dublin Street in Carlow Town with a strong ethos on local and sustainable food production and farm to fork approach. The foodhall features an organic butchery, retail section stocking local produce, a café/deli and an online shop. Coolanowle champions local artisan producers and organic foods. In their deli you can grab a quick barista style coffee, choose from the tasty breakfast menu, extensive signature sandwich range, daily soup and healthy salad specials and organic hot dish choices for here or to take-away!



Frederick's Restaurant
Mount Wolseley Hotel,
Spa and Golf Resort,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.

R93 C9H0
t: 059-9180100
e: info@mountwolseley.ie
w: www.mountwolseley.ie



Dining at Mount Wolseley is a unique experience. Start off the evening with an aperitif in the stylish Aaron Lounge or the eclectic Wolseley Cocktail Bar. Voted "Best Hotel Restaurant in Carlow", Frederick's Fine Dining Restaurant has also received 1AA Rosette Award for its creative and mouth watering cuisine. Renowned for its sumptuous dining and fine wine options, Mount Wolseley offers an extensive array of menus to satisfy even the most discernable palate. Recommended by *Taste of Ireland* with Paolo Tullio.



**The Green Barn at Burtown
House and Gardens**

Burtown House, Athy,
Co. Kildare. R14 AE67
t: 059-8623865
e: info@burtownhouse.ie
w: www.burtownhouse.ie
Onsite Jo's Pantry and Café selling delicious fresh, seasonal produce, Irish and French cheeses, olives, preserves, homemade pestos, dips with interesting dried foods, fresh sourdough breads and seasonal produce from the gardens.

take-away
options
Fri./Sat.



Easily accessible as a quick lunch stop, a more relaxed luncheon style affair or for dinner on Friday and Saturday night. Serving the freshest possible seasonal produce that comes straight from the kitchen gardens, polytunnels and surrounding fields. The ethos is on combining seasonal ingredients, using flavours, textures and colours. The Green Barn's inspiring interior spaces are rustic and contemporary, with an amazing view of the kitchen garden, with different art exhibitions, large photos from the acclaimed *Vanishing Ireland* books, as well as sculptures from Zimbabwe and by Irish artists. Interior artefacts and antiques sourced specifically for the Green Barn are on sale in the shop.



Lennons @ VISUAL
Old Dublin Road,
Carlow. R93 A3K1

t: 059-9179245
e: eat@lennons.ie w: www.lennons.ie
Winner of 'Best Customer Service' in
Leinster at the Restaurant Association of
Ireland (RAI) Awards 2017. Open for lunch
Mon. - Sun. and dinner Thurs. - Sat. from
6 p.m. Early Bird dinner all night Thurs. and
from 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. - Sat.

take-away
options



Dynamic and eclectic food is served in this contemporary and award-winning restaurant and café located in the VISUAL Arts Centre in the fabulous surroundings of Carlow College. Lennons are committed to providing good honest food produced with passion and attention to detail while using only the finest Irish meat, sustainably caught fish and locally sourced ingredients. The intention is to provide a restaurant that will suit all preferences and dietary needs with a carefully chosen menu including gluten free, vegetarian and healthy options. Lennons also have a cool little coffee kiosk on Potato Market in the town centre.



Lemongrass Restaurant
Kennedy Avenue, Carlow Town.
R93 A8N4
t: 059-9139392
e: carlow@lemongrass.ie
Open daily



All food is hand prepared by Asian chefs using all natural ingredients – no MSG preservatives or artificial colourings. Lemongrass is the healthy option – as a lot of the food is wok fried, not only is it non-fattening it is also coeliac friendly. You should never feel too full when leaving the restaurant, but you will leave satisfied.



Liberty Tree Restaurant
Talbot Hotel Carlow,
Portlaoise Road, Carlow.
R93 Y504
t: 059-9153000
e: reservations@talbothotelcarlow.ie
w: www.talbotcarlow.ie



The Liberty Tree Restaurant is situated on the 4th floor offering stunning views of the rolling Carlow countryside with an ambience that exudes warmth and friendliness. The restaurant offers a bill of fare centred on modern, fresh and homemade cuisine with an eclectic twist. Our chefs claim that locally sourced ingredients with a flair of creativity are key to the delicious dishes served. Exquisite array of fine wines.



Lord Bagenal Inn
Main Street, Leighlinbridge,
Co. Carlow.
R93 E189
t: 059 - 9774000
e: info@lordbagenal.com
w: www.lordbagenal.com
Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30 a.m., lunch noon until
2.30 p.m. (6 p.m. on Sundays), à la carte until
9.30 p.m. (9 p.m. on Sundays).



Owned by the Kehoe family since 1979, the Lord Bagenal Inn is a multiple award-winning family run hotel and restaurant set on the banks of the River Barrow in the heritage village of Leighlinbridge. Offering contemporary Irish and international cuisine using the finest local products, along with daily specials from locally sourced suppliers. AA Rosette Accredited Restaurant for Culinary Excellence 2018 – 2019. Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2018 for “having one of the most outstanding wine lists in the world”.



Lotus Chinese Restaurant
Unit 2, Kennedy Avenue, Carlow.
(beside Carlow Shopping Centre)
R93 P7W4
t: 059-9131986 e: lotuscarlow@gmail.com
Special four course menu Monday – Friday all
night. Special two course menu (Sunday/Bank
Holiday) 3.30 – 7.30 p.m.



Established in 1988, Lotus Chinese Restaurant is the oldest and leading Chinese restaurant in Carlow. Located in the heart of Carlow Town, they have a strong reputation for exquisite food, friendly service and a range of fine wines. Offering a variety of Cantonese, Chinese and European dishes with seafood a speciality. All groups are welcome. Also features a hot pot menu as an alternative healthier option. Delivery service six days, 5 p.m. until late, student discount available.



Pimento Wine & Tapas **take-away options**
Kennedy Avenue,
Carlow.
R93 F9Y0
t: 059-9143574
e: pimentowineandtapas@gmail.com
Open Monday to Saturday from 5 p.m.
onwards and on Sunday from 4 p.m.
Bookings can be made via phone or e-mail.



Located in the centre of Carlow Town with a number of awards to its name – 2016 winner of Yes Chef Best Casual Dining in Leinster, 2017 winner of Yes Chef World Restaurant in Leinster, 2018 winner of Yes Chef Front of House in Leinster, 2020 winner of Irish Restaurant Awards Best World Cuisine in Leinster. They use as many local suppliers as possible, sourcing the freshest ingredients to produce mouth-watering tapas dishes. Great value is guaranteed with special early bird offers with 10% off all orders between 5 – 7 p.m. Large parties are catered for with discounts and flexibility in the package chosen.



Plum Tree Bistro & Bar **take-away options**
Woodford Dolmen
Hotel,
Kilkenny Road,
Carlow.
R93 N207
t: 059-9142002
e: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie
w: www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie



Awarded Carlow's Best Hotel Restaurant and Best Casual Dining by the Restaurant Association of Ireland, the Plum Tree Bistro is highly renowned for its fabulous traditional Irish and international cuisine. Head chef Laurence, along with his dedicated team, carefully designs seasonal menus to emphasise the goodness of fresh, local produce. Service all day from breakfast to carvery lunch and a full and varied evening menu until 9 p.m. Sunday – Thursday, 9.30 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays.



Rachel's Garden Café
Arboretum Home and
Garden Heaven,
Old Kilkenny Road,
Leighlinbridge,
Co. Carlow.
R93 P9F4
Exit 6 off M9 motorway
t: 059-9721558
e: info@arboretum.ie
w: www.arboretum.ie



The award-winning Rachel's Garden Café at Arboretum is a self and assisted service restaurant which champions Irish and preferably locally sourced produce, a particular favourite is the Beef Braised in O'Hara's Stout which is brewed by the Carlow Brewing Company only 5 km down the road. Starting with breakfast (including the full Irish) from 9 a.m. and the delicious lunch menu of soups (gluten free), salads, daily specials and a roast of the day is served from 12 noon. The tempting desserts are all made on the premises and special dietary needs are catered for with gluten-, sugar- or dairy-free options. The little ones are kept happy with a children's menu, indoor and outdoor play areas and a fun maze. Delightful afternoon tea options are available, bookable in advance. Pre-booked groups and tours are welcome.



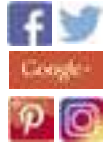
The Railway House Bar and Restaurant
Church Street,
Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow.
R21 W688 t: 059-9720676
e: markdoyle.railway@yahoo.com



Situated in the centre of Bagenalstown, Doyle's Railway House Bar and Restaurant is a haven for the weary shopper, a shelter for the tired traveller and a refuelling depot for the hungry passer by. A hearty carvery lunch is served daily from 12 – 2.30 p.m. and there is a full menu in the bar and restaurant from 2.30 – 9 p.m. Family run it provides well priced, delicious food in comfortable surroundings in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. A function room caters for 120 people and may well be the solution for a party or business event.



The MerryTree Restaurant
Rathwood, Rath,
Tullow, Co. Carlow.
R93 X3F9
t: 059-9156285
e: info@rathwood.com
w: www.rathwood.com
Second restaurant/café – The Wood Shed Café
situated beside the Ark Indoor Playcentre.



From a light snack to a full meal the award-winning MerryTree Restaurant has it all; seating 300 in a spacious and comfortable restaurant. Rathwood is famous for its homemade desserts. Hot food lunches seven days per week with a full deli and sandwich range including local, organic salads. Full Irish breakfast Monday – Saturday with buy one get one free each Saturday morning until 11 a.m. Childrens' menus and a free outdoor childrens play garden makes Rathwood a great place for younger folk to eat too!



Reddy's Bar and Restaurant
67 Tullow Street,
Carlow.
R93 FN44
t: 059-9142224
e: info@reddyscarlow.ie
w: www.reddyscarlow.ie
Food served daily from 9.30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Monday – Thursday and Sunday, and until
9.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Car park.



Carlow's oldest and longest established family run gastro pub and restaurant. Yes, we go as far back as 1768. Relax in the spacious but cosy air conditioned bar and lounge. Food served all day every day – from the full Irish breakfast to morning coffee, fresh cut sandwiches and hot carvery lunch buffet. À la carte and evening dinner menus available in the restaurant. Chef daily specials, snacks and finger food options. Various function rooms to cater for small and large parties. Special dietary requirements catered for. Large TV screens for all major sporting events. Irish music and craic every Saturday and Sunday evening in the front bar.



Riverbank Restaurant
Tullow, Co. Carlow.
R93 A0C8
t: 059-9152944
All parties catered for. Coeliac friendly. Open
seven days per week from 12 noon – 9 p.m.
Restaurant Ireland's Gold Standard Award 2016.
RAI Irish Cuisine Award 2019.

take-away
options



A variety of great value offers are available to suit every palate and budget. The menus offer quality Irish food including fresh fish, sourced daily from Kilmore Quay and locally sourced steak. Head chef and proprietor Sharon Smyth cooks imaginative and tasty dishes with a firm focus on local. At night time an extensive dinner and à la carte menu features lamb, beef and a selection of fresh fish. Recommended by Paolo Tullio, *Irish Independent*.



Sha-Roe Bistro
Clonegal,
Co. Carlow.
Y21 KH61
t: 053-9375636
e: sha-roebistro@hotmail.com
w: www.sha-roe.ie

take-away
options



Beautifully appointed little restaurant, in an immaculately maintained 18th century building. Henry Stone, awarded Chef of the Year 2011 by the *Georgina Campbell Guide*, is exceptionally talented and this delightful spot is definitely worth a detour – for Henry's seasonal menus and outstanding cooking and the atmosphere of relaxed efficiency. Georgina Campbell Newcomer of the Year 2007, "Bib Gourmand", *Michelin Guide 2008 – 2017*, Best Atmospheric Restaurant 2010, Best Chef of The Year 2011 – *Georgina Campbell Guide*.



**The Tara Arms
Traditional Irish Pub
and Restaurant**
Church Street,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
R93 T6K8
t: 059 – 9151305
GPS: 52.8033451,-6.7347945

take-away
options



Tara Arms has established a reputation for excellent food and value for money in a friendly atmosphere. It is Olde World in style with two open fires, tiled floor, mahogany back bar and furnishings. Offering the very best of local produce it is perfect for families, business, casual, special events and private parties. From a tasty snack to an unbeatable burger, the Tara Arms menu offers something for everyone and is your ultimate destination venue where you will receive a warm welcome and a great dining experience.



Teach Dolmain
76 Tullow Street,
Carlow.
R93 NY70
t: 059-9130911
e: info@teachdolmain.ie



Teach Dolmain has built up a firm reputation for great food and fantastic service in a relaxed setting. Food is served from 9.30 a.m. for the breakfast and coffee menu, lunch is served from 12 – 3 p.m. while an extensive evening, à la carte and value menu is available from 3 – 9.30 p.m. daily. Join us every Thursday night for their famous traditional Irish music session and live ballad group. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights also has entertainment in the form of DJs and live bands. Visitors are guaranteed a warm and friendly Céad Míle Fáilte.



restaurants

T.D. Molloy's
Seven Oaks Hotel
and Leisure Club,
Athy Road,
Carlow.

t: 059-9131308

R93 V4K5

e: info@sevenoakshotel.com

w: www.sevenoakshotel.com



TD Molloy's Restaurant offers intimate surroundings in which to enjoy the very best of Irish and international cuisine. The executive head chef and his highly trained team carefully plan menus to suit the needs and requirements of guests using only the finest and freshest local produce. Private dining option also available. The Oaks Bar has a superb bar lunch and the popular Night Bites menu served every evening until 9.30 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 p.m. on Sundays. No bookings required.



The Weeping Thaiger
Mill Lane, Castle Hill,
Carlow.

R93 P8P8

t: 059-9137000

w: www.weepingthaiger.ie

take-away
options



Delicious and exotic Thai cuisine prepared by highly skilled Thai chefs using only the finest, freshest ingredients available. A subtle blend of flavours are mixed together to produce a distinctive and delightful taste waiting to be enjoyed in this casual and family friendly restaurant. Takeout and delivery service also available seven days.



Toughers Bar and Restaurant
Dublin Road,
Ballyvergal, Carlow.
R93 RK72

t: 059-9138010

e: tougherscarlow@gmail.com

w: www.toughersrestaurantcarlow.com

Open from 8 a.m. daily for breakfast

(9 a.m. Sundays) until 8 p.m.



Voted by lovin.ie as having the best breakfast in Carlow. Extra light options and slimmer's breakfast also available. The lunch menu is Irish themed, with good wholesome, quality food at great value, served hot and fast. Chef specials feature daily. All sauces are gluten free. From 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday, à la carte menu served from the bar, a cosy area with an open fire and a very relaxing atmosphere! Two function rooms available which cater for parties for up to 200 people, sit down meals for up to 140 people.



cafés

Flynn's Foodhall Tullow
Dublin Road,
Tullow, Co. Carlow.

R93 A2F2

t: 059-9151205

e: admin@flynnsfoodhall.ie

Open daily until 11 p.m.



Established in 1924, Flynn's of Tullow is a 72 seat foodhall complete with Supermac's family restaurant and Papa John's Pizza. The foodhall includes a Spar shop with Insomnia coffee, Smooch ice cream mini parlour, off licence, ATM, Wi-Fi, toilets and lottery all under one roof. 140 car parking spaces are shared with Aldi while the foodhall's TOP Oil forecourt includes a brush wash, self-serve cabinet wash and vacuum. Buses welcome.



The Lazy River Café
Unit 1, Castleview Quay,
Graiguecullen, Carlow.

R93 ET22

w: www.thelazyriver.com

t: 059-9173588 e: thelazyrivercafe@hotmail.com

Open daily Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday and Bank Holidays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

take-away
options



The Lazy River Café set on the banks of the River Barrow along the Barrow Way walk specialises in delicious and reasonably priced cuisine, including sandwiches, low cal and lite bite options. Traditional home baking includes home-made scones, muffins, fresh breads, desserts, wraps and full dinners served in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Outdoor catering for all occasions. Free Wi-Fi.



The Mullicháin Café
The Quay,
St. Mullins,
Co. Carlow.

R95 XY93

t: 051-424440

e: themullichaincafe@gmail.com

Closed Monday except on Bank Holidays,
closed on Tuesday instead.

take-away
options



The Mullicháin Café is part of the tastefully restored old grain store buildings that in times gone by were used by the Grand Canal Company and then Odlums, the millers. Enjoy freshly ground coffee and a range of homemade scones and cakes. Or why not have a glass of wine or craft beer with an extensive menu which includes homemade soups, tasty salads or a panini/ciabatta wrap accompanied by a friendly chat from proprietors Mark or Martin. Open 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., weekends in February and daily March – October.



McDonald's
Kennedy Avenue,
Carlow.

R93 P2Y2

t: 059-9135460

w: www.mcdonalds.ie

Free Wi-Fi



Since 1999 McDonald's have been proud to serve the people of Carlow Town and county. Owned and managed locally, open seven days per week with a modern reimaged restaurant. All bacon, cheese, water and eggs are 100% Irish, together with Bord Bia certified Irish beef and National Dairy Council Irish milk. Delivery now available. Open daily at 8 a.m. for breakfast. Sunday – Wednesday open until 11 p.m. Thursday – Saturday open until midnight.



McDonald's Drive Thru
Rathcrogue, Junction 5, M9
(near Carlow Town). R93 N2X8

t: 059-9142802

w: www.mcdonalds.ie



Dual lane Drive Thru located at Circle K Service Station on the N80 and Junction 5 of the M9 with self-order kiosks and table service. Ideal for buses and large groups with generous parking and easy access from major routes. Open 24/7.



**Sugar & Spice Café @
Altamont Plant Sales**
Altamont Walled Garden,
Altamont Gardens, Ballon,
Co. Carlow.
R93 N882 t: 053- 376388



This café provides comfort and refreshment in the beautiful setting of the Walled Garden in Altamont, offering delightful home baked cakes and scones with freshly brewed tea and coffee. Light snacks – summer months. Open daily February – October 11 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Upcoming sandwiches and salads pre-made and packaged in Bunclody and available to purchase in Altamont.



Supermac's Drive Thru
Dublin Road, Carlow.
R93 KV96
t: 059-9182855

take-away
options
059-9130444

Drive thru restaurant open seven days per week serving quality food from 10 a.m. – 11.30 p.m. Groups welcome. Seating for up to 100 people. Easy access to M9 at junction 4. Home delivery available on 059-9130444.



**Supermac's Family Restaurant
and Papa John's Pizza**
Burrin Street, Carlow.
R93 YH79
t: 059-9130444
e: carlow@supermacs.ie
w: www.supermacs.ie or www.papajohns.ie

take-away
options



Supermac's offer a unique experience of a national brand providing quality products. For clubs, societies or families seeking to host a large party or event Supermac's set up facilities ranging from a small gazebo to a full mobile unit. Supermac's cater for corporate events and offer a wide range of finger foods including the Papa John range of pizzas that will satisfy all guests. Free Wi-Fi. Open daily. Home delivery available on 059-9130444.



Thrive Café
Market Square,
Tullow, Co. Carlow.
R93W3K8
t: 059-9151607
e: thrivecafetullow@gmail.com
w: www.thrivecafe.ie



Thrive Café is dedicated to providing processed-free, refined sugar-free, nutritious breakfasts, snacks, smoothies and lunches to customers with sustainability at the core of their values. They cater for all diets with a range of GF, vegan, vegetarian and dairy free options and host a range of events and classes promoting a healthy lifestyle from within. Visit their café or follow them on social media – thrivecafetullow.



pubs

The Ardattin Inn
Bar, Restaurant, Off Licence,
Ardattin, Co. Carlow.
R93 FK20
t: 059-9155652



The Ardattin Inn is situated in the picturesque village of Ardattin. A fantastic country pub comprising bar, lounge, venue and snug bar. Close to Altamont Gardens and the River Slaney. Available for all functions and parties.



Racey Byrne's Bar & Lounge
Restaurant & Accommodation,
80 Tullow Street, Carlow.
R93 X2P9
t: 059-9131790



Racey Byrne's is one of Carlow's oldest pubs with lots of character. A unique experience of old world charm in the heart of Carlow Town with safe parking. A friendly welcome is guaranteed from warm and obliging staff. Great value lunch options available.



Carpe Diem
Court Place,
Carlow.
R93 XA03
t: 059-9134580



Carpe Diem, a hidden gem in the heart of Carlow. Three-time winner of the prestigious County Carlow Pub of the Year. Enchanting open fires draw you into the relaxing atmosphere. Carpe Diem is your ultimate destination for a great night out with a range of local beers such as O'Hara's Pale Ale, Falling Apples Cider, O'Hara's Red Nitro & 12 Acres and an extensive gin menu.



Corcoran's Bar
24 Governey Square,
Carlow.
R93 C2D9
t: 059-9141200
e: mfinn101@gmail.com



Corcoran's Bar is the oldest original bar in Carlow Town, located just before you cross the bridge to Graiguecullen. The bar offers a relaxing atmosphere and a special old world charm. Features some of the best examples of Victorian hand carved mahogany and ebony in the country. Selections of international and local craft beers, along with a choice of Irish whiskeys are always on offer.



Dinn Rí Bar
Tullow Street,
Carlow.
R93 C8X5
t: 059-9133111 w: www.dinnri.com
f: www.facebook.com/dinnri
Open from 8 a.m. daily until late



Dinn Rí Bar is a multiple award winning venue with attractive décor, a relaxed atmosphere and a welcoming ambience. Patrons can unwind in 'The Library' by the open fire in wintertime whilst reading the paper with a hot beverage, or enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends at Dinn Rí's Bar Food Fayre and Deli Hall. There is also the option to pop out to 'The Terrace' for casual drinks in the midday sun or under the stars by night in cosy surroundings. There is regular live sports coverage on large HD screens.



Dunne's Pub
Clonegal,
Co. Carlow.
t: 053-9376336



Dunne's is the final pub at the end of the infamous Wicklow Way Walk and offers a complimentary certificate for completion of the walk. The inside of the pub tells a story of the area with artefacts from the past hanging on the walls and pictures, photos and other mementos on display.



<p>The Fighting Cocks Templepeter, Nurney (N80 Wexford Road), Co. Carlow. R93 A436 t: 059-9104509 w: www.fightingcockspub.ie</p>		<p>A family run bar, The Fighting Cocks is passionate about offering seasonal fresh and locally sourced produce. Food is served every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12- 8 p.m., 8km from Carlow Town. Join us in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, with a large array of old photos and memorabilia dating to 1874. Ample car parking, free Wi-Fi.</p>	
<p>The Irishmans Bar Court Place, Carlow. R93 Y9K8 t: 059-9131171</p>		<p>An authentic old style bar with large lounge. Taking bookings for all occasions – 21st birthdays, family occasions, table quizzes, charity events and other celebrations. Ideal location to watch all major sporting events.</p>	
<p>JJ's Bar, Mill Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 PD35 t: 059-9151285</p>		<p>Traditional, comfortable bar in the heart of Tullow Town. A warm welcome and friendly service is guaranteed from the hospitable owner John Jackman. Music on selected nights at weekends.</p>	
<p>Joyce's Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow. R95 DV76 t: 059-9773114</p>		<p>This traditional pub features an old bar and grocery with a special charm of its own. Family run and steeped in sporting tradition, visitors can expect a warm welcome and lots of lively chat. Live music some weekends.</p>	
<p>Osborne's Bar & Lounge Clonegal, Co. Carlow. Y21 XT32 t: 053-9377359 e: osborne.clonegal@gmail.com Winner of Best Pub of The Year at the National Restaurants Awards 2019.</p>		<p>Enjoy a lovely pint on the coffin board counter top and wonder how the flowing shelves are still doing their job. This bar is the original end for so many Wicklow Way walkers, complimentary completion certificates have been available for the last 25 years for those weary walkers who succeed. Visitors are welcomed with a broad smile, a wee chat and an encouraging farewell with an invitation to return again soon.</p>	
<p>Osborne's Bar & Storehouse Rathanna, Borris, Co. Carlow. R95 RZA4 t: 059-9771722 / 085-8627891</p>		<p>Situated at the foot of Mount Leinster, Osborne's Bar is a beautifully restored traditional pub which retains much of its Victorian interior. Along with the 12 bed, self-catering facility next door one can explore all the area has to offer. Then relax, soak up the atmosphere and enjoy a drink at this beautiful bar.</p>	
<p>O' Shea's Pub Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow. R95 C92R t: 059-9773106</p>		<p>This charming, rural pub in traditional style serves lunch and light bar food daily offering quality local produce. An ideal spot for a relaxing drink and a bite to eat with a lovely range of old photos and memorabilia.</p>	
<p>Pint Depot Royal Oak, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow. R21 CR28 t: 059-9723723</p>		<p>A sports bar showing all matches, sporting events and horse racing. It has a secure walled-in beer garden. Food served seven days per week from 8.30 a.m. – 6 p.m. All parties catered for and external catering also.</p>	
<p>Roberts Bar and Lounge Myshall, Co. Carlow. R21 ET29 t: 059-9157612</p>		<p>This family run, traditional establishment offers the tourist a warm, hospitable welcome. Cosy open fire – comfortable surroundings suitable for all kinds of functions – light lunch/snacks, tea/coffee available – live entertainment most weekends.</p>	
<p>The Tara Arms Traditional Irish Pub and Restaurant Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 T6K8 t: 059-9151305 An open fire, a friendly welcome and a nice smile for everyone.</p>		<p>Three-time winner of the prestigious County Carlow Black and White Pub of the Year. The Tara Arms, Tullow is your ultimate destination venue where you'll receive a warm welcome and a great dining experience.</p>	
<p>The Thatch Maryborough Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow. R93 H4F8 t: 059-9134108</p>		<p>Busy pub on the Graiguecullen side of Carlow Town with friendly staff and a welcoming atmosphere, renowned for its quality pint and lively character. Traditional music some Monday nights – check for details.</p>	
<p>Tully's Bar 148-149 Tullow Street, Carlow. R93 W243 t: 059-9131862</p>		<p>Spacious and stylish pub in the centre of Carlow Town with a great ambience and warm welcome. Lunch available from 12 – 3 p.m.</p>	

castles

Visitors to Ireland's Ancient East will find some great cultural and historical gems in Carlow reflecting its 5,000 years of ancient history. The following is a short selection but more information can be found at www.carlowtourism.com or Carlow Tourist Office.



Ballymoon Castle, Bagenalstown

Just 3.5 km east of Bagenalstown this ruined castle dates to the 14th century. The castle – as striking as it is unusual – comprises a courtyard about 80 feet square, surrounded by granite walls, eight feet thick and 20 feet high. Square towers project from three sides while a formidable gatehouse is the feature of the fourth. Access direct from the R724 Bagenalstown – Fenagh Road via a small timber footbridge.

GPS: 52.699299, -6.908788

Ballyloughan Castle, Bagenalstown

This castle was probably built in the 13th century and consisted of a large open courtyard with a curtain wall and a moat outside. Only a small square tower remains, as well as the entrance gate which is flanked by two large rounded towers. The castle originally belonged to the Kavanaghs before passing into the hands of the Bagenal family of nearby Bagenalstown and following this the Bruen family in the early 19th century. The castle can be viewed from the roadside.

GPS: 52.672369, -6.895604

Black Castle, Leighlinbridge

The village of Leighlinbridge developed at this strategic crossing on the River Barrow, defended by the Black Castle. In 1181, the Norman, Hugh de Lacy built the first castle here to defend the crossing while the present castle is reported to have been built by Sir Edward Bellingham in 1547.

GPS: 52.736224, -6.977897

Carlow Castle, Carlow Town. See page 27 for details.

Clonmore Castle, Clonmore

Clonmore Castle is square in plan and features rectangular towers at two corners with small turrets at the remaining corners. History indicates that it was probably built towards the latter end of the 13th century. **GPS: 52.82787, -6.574818**

Duckett's Grove, near Carlow town. See page 22 for details.

Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow. See page 33 for details.

TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS

The local studies service at Carlow County Library is a reference and research service dedicated to preserving the collective memory of County Carlow. The collections consist of a broad and varied range of valuable information resources which include maps, books, newspapers, photographs and journals. Researchers can direct their queries online, by telephone or in person. **t: 059-9129705 e: library@carlowcoco.ie w: www.carlowlibraries.ie R93 K126**



The Genealogy service at Carlow County Library is now available each Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment only. A dedicated genealogist is available to facilitate and assist with queries and guide people in their searches. Small fee applies. The parish records for County Carlow are available on-line at www.rootsireland.ie **t: Bernie Walsh 059-9129709 e: bwalsh@carlowcoco.ie**

field monuments

Brownshill Dolmen, near Carlow Town

One very unmistakable monument dating back to pre-historical times is the great dolmen at Brownshill to the east of Carlow Town. The dolmen has a granite capstone weighing over 100 tonnes, making it the largest of its kind in Europe. The massive capstone rests on two portal stones which flank a door stone and slopes downwards to the west where it rests on a low boulder. This magnificent capstone has excited the interest of many antiquarians and tourists down through the years and it is thought that religious rites, possibly even human sacrifice, were performed there for four and a half thousand years (2500 B.C.). Signposted, direct access – 5km from Carlow Town on the R726 Hacketstown Road.



GPS: 52.837685, -6.876287

Cloch-a-Phoill, Ardristan, Tullow, Co. Carlow

South of Tullow in Ardristan lies a large, holed stone of great antiquity which may have once been part of a megalithic tomb. For over 2,000 years it was believed that sick infants if passed through the six inch hole would be restored to health. Access off the N81 Tullow/Bunclody Road approximately 5km from Tullow (well signposted).

GPS: 52.770058, -6.747308

Triple Bullaun Stone, Clonmore, Co. Carlow

Situated on the approach to Clonmore Village in the north-eastern corner of County Carlow is the triple bullaun stone, a large natural stone in situ with three hollows scooped out. It was used for pounding ingredients in pre-historic times as a mortar and pestle might be used today. **GPS: 52.827642, -6.571168**

Haroldstown Dolmen, Tullow, Co. Carlow

A well preserved example of a portal dolmen consisting of two slightly tilted capstones supported by ten vertical stones, two of which acted as the door to the tomb. Near Tullow off the R727 – access direct, on private land. **GPS: 52.845531, -6.664073**



Rathgall Stone Fort, Tullow

An extensive hillside fortification with 8th century outer walls and later medieval inner walls. Evidence from excavations carried out at Rathgall suggests that hill forts were constructed from the late Bronze Age (800 B.C.) into the Iron Age and continued to be used into post medieval times. On excavation in 1969 Rathgall turned out to be the first **Later Bronze Age Workshop** located in Ireland and more than 400 clay moulds were also found there. Evidence of a house was discovered in the inner stone circle with the second and third ramparts forming the main defensive walls. Extensive metal workshop areas were uncovered in the inner and outer circles for casting large quantities of bronze weapons and tools. Other finds included glass, bronze and stone objects, clay moulds, gold and glass beads and other artefacts. Excavations revealed that an important wealthy family or small community lived on the hilltop. Situated 5km from Tullow off the R725 Shillelagh Road – access direct. **GPS: 52.803797, -6.663319**



Rathgall Stone Fort, Tullow

The character and heritage of Carlow's rural towns and villages reflect some of its most charming aspects. Riverside towns with graceful medieval bridges, old stone-built estate towns, bustling market towns and hillside villages add their individual colour and character to the Carlow landscape. Use the map on page 30 of this publication to guide you on your touring route.

ARDATTIN: a picturesque country village, 6 km south of Tullow near the River Slaney. Located closeby was **Ballintemple House**, birthplace of Pierce Butler, soldier, statesman and signatory of the American Constitution. Although the house was sadly destroyed by fire in 1913, an extensive tree nursery tended by the State forestry service, Coillte, now occupies the Ballintemple Estate which is also the base of the National Tree, Shrub and Seed Centre in Ireland. The beauty of this village is strengthened by the pride of its people, which is reflected in its overall character.
GPS: 52.754059, -6.706826

BAGENALSTOWN: Situated on the River Barrow, Ireland's second longest river, Bagenalstown derives its name from Walter Bagenal, who, in founding the town, had visions of mirroring the city of Versailles in northern France. However, his efforts became frustrated due to the re-routing of the coach road away from the town. He left more than enough for visitors to enjoy with handsome stone public buildings including the impressive **Courthouse**, now a public library and its **neo-classical railway station**. Visitors can explore the town by following the dedicated heritage trail which starts from the quayside, opposite the Maltings building. This former mill town made full use of the River Barrow to transport grain, beet, coal, turf and Guinness by barge, evidence of which can be seen in its fine industrial architecture. One of the finest views of the town may be enjoyed on the approach road from Leighlinbridge and includes the spire of **St. Andrew's Catholic Church** and the fine tower of **St. Mary's Church of Ireland Church**.

ATTRACTIONS: **Royal Oak Distillery** invites visitors to experience the touch, smell and taste of their whiskeys on a distillery tour at their premises in Royal Oak, Bagenalstown. See pages 40 and 41. The ruins of the early 14th century **Ballymoon Castle** and 13th century **Ballyloughan Castle** are located near the town – see page 52. Heritage Trail – follow the map available locally and heritage plaques on the various buildings for an interesting two hour walk of the town.



Quayside in Bagenalstown

Wells Church, situated closeby, is the preserved ruin of a church dating back to 1262. The church is surrounded by an enclosed and well-maintained graveyard which is still in use today. **ACTIVITIES:** **Outdoor heated swimming pool** – see page 11 for details. The **McGrath complex** offers fine sporting facilities including cricket, hurling, soccer and Gaelic football, a tennis court and pitch and putt course. The River Barrow in this area is renowned for **coarse fishing** with wheelchair friendly fishing stands located near the swimming pool. The **Barrow Way** long-distance walking route – see page 14. **GPS: 52.702099, -6.95607**

BALLYMURPHY: A gentle hillside village captured in a glen on mountain slopes which derives its name from Matthew Murphy of Clonroche, County Wexford, a powerful landowner and builder of a castle in the area in the mid-17th century. This is the first village encountered on the County Carlow side of the Blackstairs Mountains by the traveller passing close to the picturesque Sculloge Gap. Closeby on Shannon's Lane is the site of the 1941 German bombing which killed three members of the Shannon family.
GPS: 52.571837, -6.859298
ACTIVITIES: **Walking:** South Leinster Way – see pages 17/18.

BALLON: The Blackstairs and Wicklow Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to the pastures and cornfields, the winding country roads and traditional farmsteads around the charming rural village of Ballon. Ballon Hill, 450 ft above sea level provides magnificent views of the surrounding countryside while map boards and a heritage trail with accompanying map supplies information on the historical significance of the area.
GPS: 52.739119 -6.7697413
ATTRACTIONS: **Organic Garden** – grounds of Ballon National School, **Ballon Tree and Heritage Trails**, **Lecky Graveyard**, **Siopa Glas**, national award-winning community shop, **Altamont Gardens** (pg. 20), **Lace Gallery** (pg. 36) and **Malone's Fruit Farm** (pg. 40).

BORRIS is a Georgian, granite village, full of charm and heritage nestling in the fertile valley of the River Barrow and the ideal gateway for nearby Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs Mountains. Its old, granite houses and Victorian shop fronts have remained largely intact. Most of the town's buildings stand on the north side of a steeply rising main street, overshadowed by the presence of the very substantial demesne walls of Borris House. Built in Tudor style, Borris House is the home of the Kavanagh family, direct descendants of the **McMorrough Kavanagh** dynasty, former Celtic Kings of Leinster. Visitors are invited to explore this charming town by following a series of mapboards located at the upper and lower end of the town, and at Borris Viaduct. **ATTRACTIONS:** **Borris House** is open on selected days throughout the year. See page 33.



Borris town and 16-arch viaduct

Clashganny Lock, 5km south of Borris on the R729 New Ross Road offers a panoramic view of Carlow's waterways system and two looped walks through the beautiful Clashganny Forest. **ACTIVITIES:** **Hang-gliding and paragliding on Mount Leinster, walking** on the South Leinster and Barrow Ways – see pages 13/16. **Coarse angling** – see page 19. Clashganny Forest Looped Walks.
GPS: 52.599837, -6.923121

CARLOW: In Carlow Town the visitor is presented with a rich tapestry of history dating back a millennium and beyond, many associated famous names and an architectural heritage telling the story of the town's evolution since the Normans first came here in the 12th century. With a population of over 20,000, Carlow is the county town and gateway to the South-East standing at the confluence of the Barrow and Burrin rivers. Tradition has it that the junction of the two rivers once covered such a large area of ground that a lake was formed, or, as some believe four lakes, hence the name Ceatharloch or City of the Four Lakes. Famous names associated with Carlow include George Bernard Shaw, the dramatist and critic whose mother Lucinda Elizabeth Gurley was born in Carlow. The famous impressionist artist Frank O'Meara was born at 37 Dublin Street on March 30th 1853, sharing that birth date with Vincent Van Gogh. **GPS: 52.8349944, -6.9297875**
ATTRACTIONS: **Carlow Town Heritage Trail** – see pages 26 and 27 for details. **Carlow Town Park** – a 12.8 acre park on the banks of the River Barrow offering a host of amenities for all the family – see page 27. **Brownhill Dolmen** – Europe's largest portal dolmen, with a capstone weighing 101 tonnes, 5km from the town on the R726 – page 52. **Carlow Art Collection** for visitors to enjoy at Carlow College, St. Patrick's. **VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art** – see page 32.



The Liberty Tree, Potato Market, Carlow

CLONEGAL received the accolade of Ireland's tidiest village in the 2014 and 2015 Tidy Towns Awards and is well worth a visit for its stunning planting and colourful flower displays. The village of Cluain na nGall, or in English, "*the Meadow of the Stranger*" is set in a valley between the Blackstairs and Wicklow mountains. It is often referred to as the "Switzerland of Ireland" for its outstanding natural beauty. With a backdrop of tree clad hills and abundant wild and bird life centred on its picturesque river, Clonegal is a delight to explore. **GPS: 52.690404, -6.649131**
ATTRACTIONS: **Huntington Castle** – see page 33, **Weavers Cottages** – see page 36, **Wicklow Way Walking Route**, see page 15.



CLONMORE is one of Carlow's most important early Christian sites with a wealth of history for visitors to discover. Situated in the scenic north-eastern corner of County Carlow, the present road cuts through the monastery founded by St. Maedóc around 600 A.D. The importance of the site is attested by the presence of two large crosses, nineteen cross-inscribed stones, an ogham stone and two bullaun stones. **P.J. McCall**, the famous balladeer was born here and composed hundreds of ballads of historic interest including *BooLavogue* and *Follow Me Up to Carlow*. **GPS: 52.827109, -6.569184**

FENAGH: Fenagh is known for its architectural design and granite buildings with fine examples of stone work to be seen in the houses and surrounds throughout the village. One of the most famous families associated with the area was the Lecky Watsons, a Quaker family, who first settled here in the early 18th century. **GPS: 52.713595, -6.84726**

HACKETSTOWN: Resting in the lush green landscape of Ireland's Ancient East, Hacketstown is built on a hill close to Carlow's north eastern border in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. It lies in the shadow of Eagle Hill, a steeply rising mound to the south west side of the town, on the summit of which is a prehistoric earthwork.
ACTIVITIES: Situated at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, the area has a wide variety of walks. **GPS: 52.8654, -6.55852**

KILDAVIN: A unique little village outside Bunclody, off the main Carlow-Rosslare Road (N80). Kildavin offers beauty, peace and unspoilt scenery synonymous with Ireland's Ancient East as well as the opportunity to explore its rich and varied past in holy wells, church ruins and simple country life. **GPS: 52.68377, -6.685339**



Young's Bridge, near Kildavin

ATTRACTIONS: **The South Leinster Way** long distance walking trail – see page 16 for details.
Visit www.clonegalkildavin.ie

LEIGHLINBRIDGE: With its narrow, winding streets that rise and fall with the lie of the land, grey stone malhousers and jagged castle ruins overlooking an ancient bridge, Leighlinbridge opens a vista of Ireland's Ancient East to the visitor. The development of Leighlinbridge village was greatly influenced through its historic importance as a transport route.

ATTRACTIONS: **The Millennium, Vivaldi and Sculpture Gardens and Garden of Remembrance** – see page 23. Ireland's first all-county **World War 1 Memorial. Black Castle** – see page 52. **Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven** – see page 20.
ACTIVITIES: Walking along the **Barrow Way** – see pages 13/14 for details.
GPS: 52.735586, -6.973691

MILFORD: A pleasant stop on the River Barrow which was once the centre of a thriving milling industry. The mill at Milford was established in the 1790s and is one of the most extensive and celebrated in Ireland. Electricity was generated from here in 1891, providing Carlow with the distinction of being the first inland town in Ireland and Britain to receive electric power. **GPS: 52.781063, -6.963327**

MYSHALL lies at the foot of the northern slopes of the Blackstairs Mountains which provide a magnificent backdrop to the rich pasturelands and winding country roads. The village forms part of the stunning Mount Leinster Heritage Drive which offers beautiful views of **Mount Leinster** and the **Nine Stones** vantage point. The village enjoys a long religious history with **St. Finian** and **St. Columbanus** both born in the village.
ATTRACTIONS: **The Adelaide Memorial Church.** Built as a miniature of Salisbury Cathedral in England, this architectural gem was completed in 1912 by John Duguid of Dover, to commemorate his wife Adelaide who died in 1903 and his daughter Constance who was killed in a riding accident near the village. The key is held locally by Mrs. Bridie Daly (white bungalow opposite church grounds t: 059-9157671 – please phone in advance or alternatively contact John Kelly t: 059-9157584/087-9293661). **GPS: 52.685852, -6.780344**

RATHVILLY: The picturesque village of Rathvilly in north Carlow lies at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. It is a most historic village as the Kings of Hy Kinsellagh had a residence here. St. Patrick visited and baptised its king, his wife and his infant son in 450 A.D. at the Holy Well, which may still be viewed in the local graveyard.

ATTRACTIONS: Monument to **Kevin Barry**, a local boy who joined the fight for Irish freedom with 2020 marking the 80th anniversary of his execution. **GPS: 52.88039, -6.6957**

ST. MULLINS is a scenically, charming riverside village on the banks of the River Barrow with an impressive ecclesiastical history and is one of the most significant archaeological sites in Ireland's Ancient East, standing in importance with Glendalough and Clonmacnoise. The area gets its name from St. Moling (614–696 A.D.). The townland has physical remains from many significant periods in Irish history – an early Christian monastic settlement, a Norman Motte and Bailey, a large graveyard with many insurgents from the 1798 Rebellion, 19th century flour and woollen mills and the river with its history in both fishing and canal boat transportation.
ACTIVITIES: **Barrow Way walking route** – see pages 13/15 and 17 for details.
GPS: 52.489361, -6.928844

TINNAHINCH/GRAIGUENAMANAGH are popular boating centres on the River Barrow whose character reflects a bygone time when the area was an important focal point for commercial traffic on the river. Both towns are connected by a beautiful bridge, constructed in 1767 when the canal system was being built. One of Ireland's finest Cistercian monasteries was founded in 1204 by Norman monks from Stanley Abbey in Wiltshire. **GPS: 52.53888, -6.952529**

TINRYLAND: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, built in 1819, contains the striking stained glass window to the memory of Captain Myles Keogh who was born in Leighlinbridge in 1840 and was killed at the battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. **GPS: 52.797141, -6.895631**

TULLOW is located in the **River Slaney Valley** in the midst of rich, fertile agricultural land. Tullow reflects an enduring historical culture with many items of antiquity including an ancient holed stone "**Cloch a Phoill**" (**Ardristan**), a pre-historic ring fort (**Rathgall**) and a pre-historic burial place (**Bawnoge**). Tullow is also the ancestral home of the famous **Wolseley** family – Frederick York Wolseley gave his name to the Wolseley car. It is known locally as the **granite town** because of the fine stone used in its walls and public buildings.
ATTRACTIONS: **Tullow Museum, Bishop Daniel Delany Museum** – see page 33/35 for details. **Rathwood and Rath Wood Forest Walks** – see page 23 for details.
ACTIVITIES: Golfing at nearby Mount Wolseley Golf Club – see page 55 for details.
GPS: 52.802535, -6.737261

KEY DATES FOR THE RE-OPENING OF IRELAND'S GOLF CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

May 18th: Golfers have to be members of a club, they can only play at the club they are a member of and have to live within a 5km radius. Members can only play in a maximum of threeballs.

June 8th: Members will be allowed to bring guests to their golf clubs, the travel limit is extended to 20km. Competition golf will be allowed.

June 29th: Clubs can hold open competitions. Fourballs will also be allowed. Club facilities including restaurants may also re-open.

July 20th: Golfers can travel beyond their region. **August 10th:** Bars in golf clubs will re-open.

Carlow Golf Club

Deerpark,
Dublin Road,
Carlow.
R93 HX46
t: 059-9131695
e: info@carlowgolfclub.ie
w: www.carlowgolfclub.ie



DEERPARK COURSE: Carlow Golf Club is an inland links, laid out in a former wild deer park over undulating terrain with numerous elevated tees, several excellent dog-legs and small slick putting surfaces. Extensive, mature woods are a strong feature in a pleasant countryside setting where the unusually sandy soil has the bonus of allowing year round play. The course is rated amongst the top 20 championship courses in Ireland. There are many long par 4s and the 16th, a very demanding two shotter played through a tunnel-like valley, has been chosen by Christy O'Connor Snr. as the foremost 16th hole in Ireland. The par 5, 18th offers the chance of a closing birdie and a grandstand finish as it tumbles downhill all the way back to the clubhouse. A good ending to a memorable round.

OAKPARK COURSE: The 9 hole par 35, Oakpark course, owned by Carlow Golf Club, was designed by renowned architect Jeff Howes and is a truly terrific layout. Situated on rolling terrain, it provides a superb challenge to golfers of all standards. Similar to the championship Deerpark course, the emphasis is on accurate iron play and a delicate short game!

TYPE OF COURSE: Deerpark course: 18 hole parkland – 6,621 yards (6,055 metres) – par 70. Oak Park course: 9 hole parkland – 3,197 yards (2,923 metres) – par 35.

OPENING HOURS: Daylight hours. The Clubhouse Bar is open every day from 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m. A fully serviced restaurant offers a choice of breakfast, lunch and dinner menus and is open from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily.

GREEN FEES: Monday to Thursday from €40, Friday from €45, Saturday from €60. Group rates available. Book online at www.carlowgolfclub.ie where there are reduced rates available or contact the club office to make a booking t: 059-9131695 or info@carlowgolfclub.ie

HIRE SERVICES: Clubs, caddy car and buggy hire.

LESSONS: By private arrangement with P.G.A. professional Damian McGrane.



**Mount Wolseley Hotel,
Spa and Golf Resort**

Tullow,
Co. Carlow.
R93 C9H0
t: 059-9180161
e: golf@mountwolseley.ie
w: www.mountwolseley.ie



Situated 12 km east of Carlow Town, Mount Wolseley is set in opulent surroundings and boasts an 18-hole championship golf course. According to Christy O'Connor Junior, course designer, "Rarely after a first look around a potential site for a golf course had I been so impressed as at Mount Wolseley. What we have here is a fair but testing 18 holes of championship golf, none of which will disappoint even the most discerning player". This par 72 course

provides a challenge to every ability as each hole presents demanding approach shots, with wide landing areas being the only concession. With its broad fairways, unforgiving rough and picturesque water hazards, Mount Wolseley has justifiably played host to a number of national and international golf competitions and was selected as the host venue for the prestigious European Challenge Tour for three consecutive years between 2015 and 2017. The Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort is located on the grounds of the 18th century ancestral home of Frederick York Wolseley, whose family became synonymous with the automotive industry. This charming resort offers an eclectic blend of contemporary design and lavish detail surrounded by 200 acres of peaceful landscape. Featuring 143 bedrooms including four suites and eight executive rooms, each with individually controlled air conditioning and interactive IT facilities with broadband access. Facilities include: Frederick's award-winning fine dining restaurant – voted "Best Hotel Restaurant in Carlow" and recipient of a 1AA Rosette. The Aaron Lounge and The Snug provide the ideal spot for relaxation and informal dining. Leisure and relaxation facilities are also provided at the Sanctuary Spa, Carlow's only resort spa which features fourteen treatment rooms using Elemis and Thalgo products, relaxation pool, dry floatation, experience showers and balneotherapy.

TYPE OF COURSE: 18 hole championship Christy O'Connor Jnr parkland – 7,172 yards (6,558 metres) – par 72. **OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours.

GREEN FEES: From €35 – €65. Group rates also available. Contact sales for further details t: 059-9180161 or e: golf@mountwolseley.ie

HIRE SERVICES: Buggy hire available.

LESSONS: By prior appointment with P.G.A. professional Sean O'Donoghue.

OPEN COMPETITIONS: Full schedule of open days on www.mountwolseley.ie/open-days.html



Borris Golf Club

Deerpark,
Borris,
Co. Carlow.
R95 ET21
t: 059-9773310
e: info@borrisgolfclub.ie
w: www.borrisgolfclub.ie



Established in 1907, Borris Golf Club is one of the oldest clubs in Ireland and this is reflected in its mature parkland course. The breathtaking scenery of the surrounding countryside combined with the strategic design of the course, ensure that all who visit, always return! Spectacular views of Borris House, Mount Leinster and the famous Borris Viaduct. A big Borris welcome awaits you. Ideal for a holiday break with excellent hotels, guesthouses and fine restaurants nearby. **TYPE OF COURSE:** 9 hole parkland – 6,221 yards (5,689 metres) – Par 70. SSS 69. **OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours, year round. The clubhouse bar is open from 12 p.m. – 9.30 p.m each day (restricted hours during winter months). Light meals served. Full catering service available to groups by arrangement. **GREEN FEES:** €16 Monday to Sunday. Group rates available. Book online at www.borrisgolfclub.ie or phone the clubhouse. **HIRE SERVICES:** Caddy car and buggy hire.



Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club

Carrigduff,
Bunclody,
Co. Wexford.
Y21 N922
t: 053-9374444
e: proshop@bunclodygfc.ie
w: www.bunclodygfc.ie



Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club is situated in 300 acres of breathtaking parklands on the Carlow Wexford border. Opened in March 2009 it is already ranked in the top 30 parkland courses in Ireland. The Jeff Howes designed championship course runs over 7,000 yards on the banks of the River Slaney and has a diversity of golf holes, rarely seen on one golf course. Ranked 25th in *Golf Digest's* top parkland courses. Europe's ONLY golf course with an elevator taking you from the 17th hole up five floors to the 18th tee box giving a bird's eye view over the River Slaney. The bar and restaurant offer a warm welcome and tempting menu with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and of Mount Leinster. The club is open to visitors and societies every day.

OPEN COMPETITIONS: A full fixture list is available on the upcoming events tab on www.bunclodygfc.ie.

TYPE OF COURSE: 18 hole championship parkland – 7,164 yards (6,617 metres) – par 72.

OPENING HOURS: Daylight hours. Luxury five star thatched clubhouse open daily. **GREEN FEES:** From €25 (early bird and winter special) – €50 Saturday. Summer Stay and Play €89 pps. Corporate packages available.

HIRE SERVICES: Trolleys, electric caddy cars and buggies. **PRO SHOP:** Full range of golf equipment, manufactured by leading companies – Titleist, Taylormade, Ping, Galvin Green and many more. Pro Shop Manager Caroline Dunne.

GOLF ACADEMY WITH FLOODLIT DRIVING RANGE: Fully floodlit golf range, 10 indoor bays, outdoor grass tees, putting green and chipping greens. Golf tuition seven days per week with P.G.A. professional Gary McLean. **FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE** for weddings/confirmations/communions. Bar and restaurant with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.



Quinagh House Par 3

Quinagh House,
Carlow.
R93 V741
t: 059-9142088
m: 089-4973555
(booking line)

Quinagh House Par 3 is set in 42 acres on the outskirts of Carlow Town, surrounded by mature trees with extensive views of the Killeshin Hills. A very well maintained golf course, it is a perfect place to relax or enjoy a friendly competition with 18 exceptional holes ranging from 130 – 220 yards in length. Well positioned trees throughout the course and water hazards serve as challenging obstacles, while also enhancing the quality of this spacious course. A perfect course for both beginners and experienced players. Refreshments and light snacks available in the club house.

TYPE OF COURSE: 18 hole par 3.

OPENING HOURS: Daylight hours, year round.

GREEN FEES: Adults €10, Senior Citizens €7, Students €8, Juveniles €7. **HIRE SERVICES:** No charge for hiring clubs, trolleys €2. During Covid 19 club hire will not be available.





Carlow County Council welcomes you to Carlow
Fáilte, Bonjour, Hola, Guten Tag, Czeszc!



VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art
& George Bernard Shaw Theatre



The Barrow Way at Tinnahinch Lock



View from Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area
to Mount Leinster, Blackstairs Mountains



Altamont House and Gardens



Fireworks at the annual Carlow Arts Festival



Carlow County Museum

Take a holiday break in Carlow this year and enjoy
the great amenities on offer and its friendly people

Carlow County Council - working with communities, enhancing well being and our natural
environment and heritage, supporting economic development, tourism and the arts

For further information: t: 059 917 0300 e: secretar@carlowcoco.ie w: www.carlow.ie