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a guide to county carlow
carlow
through the waters of time

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© David Laylor

DUCKETT'S GROVE, KNEESTOWN, CO. CARLOW

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FREE county map



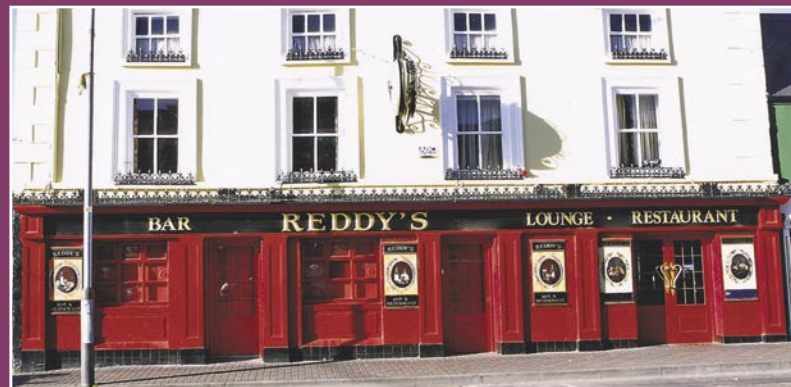
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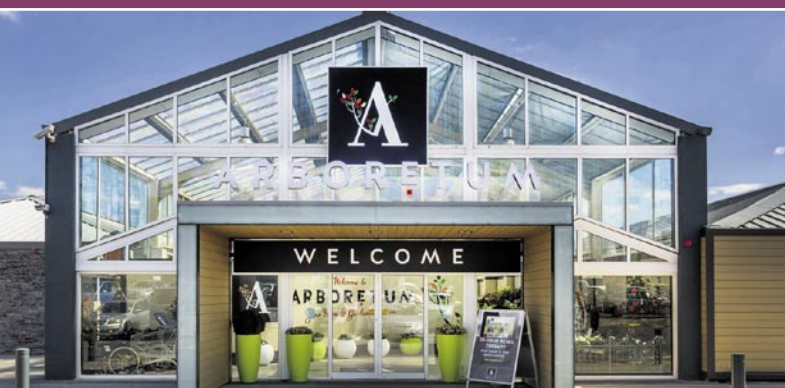
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access to county carlow

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.



and Dublin City (Ulster Bank, Georges Quay). They also provide 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. Coach features: WC facilities, Wi-fi and air conditioning. All coaches are Fáilte Ireland approved and available for all types of private hire including day trips, festivals and sporting events. Buy your bus ticket online to avail of 10% OFF www.jjkavanagh.ie t: 0818 333 222 e: info@jjkavanagh.ie w: www.jjkavanagh.ie



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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



The Blackstairs Mountains and Mount Leinster

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 still 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, the hidden Ireland, 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 well-ordered small towns to ancient monastic sites and archaeological wonders from another age.

The Barrow Way, the great eco-spine of Carlow, stretches 48km from Carlow Town to St. Mullins and is one of Ireland’s most rewarding rambles! In County Carlow one can commune with Neo-Lithic ancestors at the Brownhill Dolmen. One can marvel at the enterprise of the Norman war-lords who constructed castles on the river at Carlow and Leighlinbridge, or in the meadows at Ballymoon! One can salute the alchemy of ancient craftsmen who smelted metal in the sacred circle of the ring fort outside Tullow, or surmise why Ballon Hill is the foremost Bronze-Age burial site in Ireland.

One of the most dramatic scenic drives in County Carlow begins in the



The River Barrow and Barrow Way walking route near Borris.

© Fáilte Ireland

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.

International connections abound throughout the county – in Clonmelsh Cemetery, close to Tinryland, Walt Disney's ancestors are buried. St. Willibrord who became Patron Saint of Luxembourg pursued his studies at nearby Killogan. Another connection can be found in atmospheric Old Leighlin where St. Lasarian on his return from Rome held a Synod in 630 A.D. to discuss the alignment of

the Celtic Church with Rome on the matter of the date of Easter. St. Columbanus' close connections with Carlow and Myshall are being celebrated this year with a dedicated Columban Way walk from May 25th – 30th. He is widely recognised as Ireland's first great European.

For a county of only 900 square kilometres, Carlow offers in close proximity a marvellous range of outdoor activities for walkers, cyclists, watersport enthusiasts, pony trekkers, paragliders, anglers and golfers. Garden lovers have Altamont Gardens, the great Gothic pile at Duckett's Grove and historic Huntington Castle in the charming village of Clonegal. Rathvilly and Hacketstown point eastward towards the dramatic Wicklow hills. The dreamy stretch of waterway at Bagenalstown is a mecca for canoeists and waterfowl enthusiasts.

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 where one can rub shoulders with sports heroes and personalities such as Cheltenham champion trainer Willie Mullins and Grand Slam rugby hero Sean O'Brien. For culture buffs and art enthusiasts there is VISUAL in Carlow Town and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Make Carlow your holiday destination in 2019. Beidh Fáilte romhat!



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



Taking a stroll in Altamont Gardens.

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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

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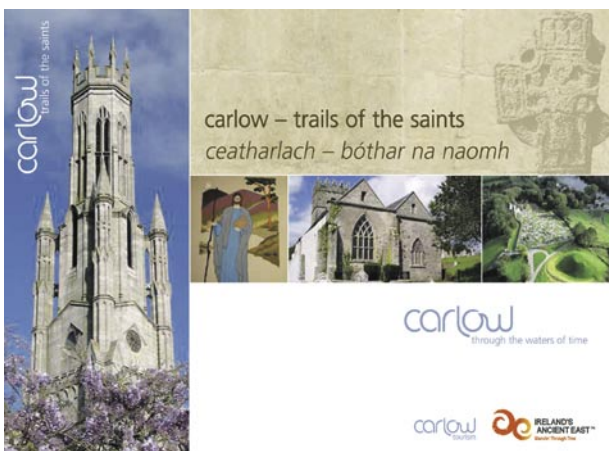
Carlow has a range of exciting trails to help you delve in and really discover the county. From Ireland's first integrated garden trail to our strong religious and spiritual heritage there is so much to enjoy here. All trails are available as printed publications from Carlow Tourist Office, on the Carlow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

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 twenty 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.

Each year the Carlow Garden Festival, which takes place over 10 days at the end of July and beginning of August, welcomes the finest UK and Irish gardening and wildlife experts to the county for a range of workshops, talks and garden tours.

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.



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. Lasarian's and St. Moling's Trails. Many sites here are deemed to be of national significance. These include 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 twenty two 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 Killogean and who later became Patron Saint of Luxembourg, St. Fintan, St. Fortune, and St. Moling.

south carlow adventure trail

Carlow's wide open spaces, mountains and valleys are ideal for the outdoors, whether for a 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 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 three Carlow brands – Walsh Whiskey, Silver Spear Gin and the Carlow Brewing Company – now exporting around the world.

	date and venue	event	description
	Sunday 12th May Duckett's Grove near Carlow Town	Vintage Car Fair	An unmissable day if you own or enjoy looking at a marvellous display of vintage and classic cars and tractors from pre-war to the 1980s. Various activities for all family members including craft stalls, auto jumble, dog show, birds of prey, fun fair and a tour of the gardens at Duckett's Grove. t: 087-6722972 w: www.carlowvintageandclassicmotorclub.com
	Sunday 12th May	The Sheehy Motor Group Carlow Stages Rally	A significant event in rallying showcasing the Mark II, a now unique car in motoring history. The only event in Ireland with a separate rally for Mark II cars. Venue: The Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow t: 086-8141317 e: secretary@carlowcarclub.ie
	Saturday 25th – Friday 30th May	Columban Way Carlow Section	new 2019 The Columban Way walk is a pilgrim trail which follows the journey of Saint Columbanus taken during the 5th and early 6th century, from his home parish of Myshall in the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains to begin religious studies in Fermanagh and Bangor, Co. Down. At the age of 48 Columbanus travelled to Europe founding monasteries along the way in France, Germany and Austria, eventually settling in Bobbio, Italy where he was laid to rest in 615 AD. Pre-booking essential. May 25th – Stage 1 Bunclody to Nine Stones and Stage 2 Nine Stones – Myshall May 26th – Stage 3 Myshall – Leighlinbridge May 27th – 30th Leighlinbridge – Robertstown, Co. Kildare t: 087-6736311 e: columbanwaymyshall@gmail.com

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	date and venue	event	description
	Saturday 1st – Sunday 2nd June County Carlow Football Club Oak Park, Carlow	Summerfest	Carlow's country music festival sees two nights of live entertainment inside one of Ireland's largest marquees. Headlining are eight of Ireland's top country music acts including Nathan Carter, Derek Ryan, Robert Mizzell, Cliona Hagan, Dominic Kirwan, Barry Kirwan, Ben Troy, and Crystal Swing! w: www.summerfestcarlow.com
	Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June River Barrow Carlow Town	Carlow Regatta 2019	One of the oldest rowing festivals in the country celebrating its 160th year in 2019. Eights, quads and scull racing from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. t: 087-6432830 w: www.carlowrowingclub.com
	Tuesday 4th June – Sunday 9th June Carlow College, College Street, Carlow Town	Carlow Arts Festival	This year's festival is another celebration of the many riches the arts has to offer from national and international artists, which also coincides with the 40th anniversary of the festival's origins. Six days of extraordinary and innovative exhibitions, theatre performances, comedy shows and live music. A fantastic line-up including everything from the Children's Island from France to the Irish National Opera, open air cinema and Sugartown on Saturday, June 8th featuring music, dance and fireworks. A dynamic range of entertainment and arts which transforms Carlow into a cultural hub. All other details available on www.carlowartsfestival.com e: info@carlowartsfestival.com
	Friday 7th June – Sunday 9th June Borris House & Village Borris, Co. Carlow	Borris House Festival of Writing and Ideas	A weekend of stimulating dialogue, gathering together intriguing international minds – historians, novelists, journalists, film-makers, poets, theatre directors, war correspondents, biographers, artists and political commentators. e: info@festivalofwritingandideas.com w: www.festivalofwritingandideas.com
	Wednesday 10th July Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow	Chapter House adaptation of Wuthering Heights	One of the most enchanting events of the summer – Chapter-house Theatre Company present the wild and tempestuous love story of Emily Brontë's <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , set on the lawns of Lisnavagh. t: 059-9161473 e: events@lisnavagh.com
	Saturday 27th July – Monday 5th August	Carlow Garden Festival	The Carlow Garden Festival is a wonderful opportunity for budding and experienced gardeners and nature lovers to obtain practical advice from a range of informative workshops while visiting the many beautiful gardens and garden centres in the county. w: www.carlowgardentrail.com
	Saturday 17th – Sunday, 25th August Throughout the County	Heritage Week	Week of indoor and outdoor events celebrating the rich heritage the county has to offer and promoting awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage. Activities range from fairs, night time bat walks, wildlife tours and lectures to music recitals, historical re-enactments and outdoor activities. w: www.heritageweek.ie
	Sunday 18th August Coppengah, Tullow, Co. Carlow	Tullow Agricultural Show	One of the most established agricultural shows in the country, Tullow Show has something to interest both rural and urban visitors and young and old. Features food and craft halls, trade stands, competitions in horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, art and much more. t: 086-834 6931 e: tullowagrishow@eircom.net w: www.tullowshow.com
	Tuesday 17th – Thursday 19th September Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow	National Ploughing Championships	The National Ploughing Championships is one of Europe's largest outdoor agricultural events incorporating a ploughing contest. The event which attracts over 250,000 visitors each year offers a great entertainment programme for all the family and is a great celebration of rural Ireland. Venue: Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow t: 059-8625125 e: info@npa.ie w: www.npa.ie
	Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October	Carlow Autumn Walking Festival	A great opportunity for beginner or experienced walkers to enjoy the challenge of Carlow's mountain treks or the peace of its woodland and riverside walks. w: www.carlowtourism.com

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Racey Byrnes Pub & B&B WELCOME STANDARD	80 Tullow Street, Carlow R93 X2P9	t: 059-9131790/086-6096162 facebook 	e: raceybyrne@hotmail.com
CLONEGAL AREA			
Huntington Castle WELCOME STANDARD	Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237	t: 053-9377160 facebook 	e: info@huntingtoncastle.com w: www.huntingtoncastle.com
FARMHOUSES			
CARLOW TOWN AREA			
Coolanowle Country House and Organic Farm ★★★★★	Ballickmoyler, Co. Carlow R93 C3K4	t: 059-8625176/087-6104108 facebook   	e: info@coolanowle.com w: www.coolanowle.com
GUESTHOUSES			
CARLOW TOWN AREA			
Barrowville Townhouse ★★★	Kilkenny Road, Carlow R93 WK30	t: 059-9143324	e: barrowvilletownhouse@eircom.net w: www.barrowville.com
Carlow Guesthouse ★★★	Green Lane, Dublin Road, Carlow R93 NF85	t: 059-9136033 facebook	e: info@carlowguesthouse.com w: www.carlowguesthouse.com
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Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens	Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 W527	t: 059-9775283 facebook  	Open May to September only e: info@kilgraneyhouse.com w: www.kilgraneyhouse.com



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HOTELS			
BORRIS AREA			
Step House Hotel ★★★★	Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow R95 V2CR	t: 059-9773209   	e: info@stephousehotel.ie w: www.stephousehotel.ie
CARLOW TOWN AREA			
Woodford Dolmen Hotel ★★★	Kilkenny Road, Carlow R93 N207	t: 059-9142002   	e: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie w: www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie
Seven Oaks Hotel and Leisure Club ★★★★★	Athy Road, Carlow R93 V4K5	t: 059-9131308   	e: info@sevenoakshotel.com w: www.sevenoakshotel.com
Talbot Carlow ★★★★	Portlaoise Road, Carlow R93 Y504	t: 059-9153000   	e: reservations@talbothotelcarlow.ie w: www.talbotcarlow.ie
LEIGHLINBRIDGE AREA			
The Lord Bagenal Inn ★★★★	Main St, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow R93 E189	t: 059-9774000   	e: info@lordbagenal.com w: www.lordbagenal.com
TULLOW AREA			
Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort ★★★★★	Tullow, Co. Carlow. R93 C9H0	t: 059-9180100   	e: info@mountwolseley.ie w: www.mountwolseley.ie
SELF-CATERING			
BAGENALSTOWN AREA			
Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens ★★★★★	Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 W527	t: 059-9775283    <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Open May to September only</div>	e: info@kilgraneyhouse.com w: www.kilgraneyhouse.com
GRAIGUENAMANAGH/TINNAHINCH AREA			
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Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort ★★★★★	Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 C9H0	t: 059-9180100   	e: info@mountwolseley.ie w: www.mountwolseley.ie
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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

Tours available daily*
Tel: (059) 918 6653
www.royaloakdistillery.com

* Reduced opening hours outside of summer season, please check website



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



facebook /CarlowCountyMuseum
Follow us on Twitter @CarlowCountyMus

Visiting the multi award-winning Carlow County Museum is a must. Be wowed by the 340-million-year-old fossil, the 20 ft hand-carved church pulpit and an exquisite 2mm Iron Age glass bead! Among the displays are exhibitions featuring: the magnificently hand carved six metre 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 new stained glass panel by Peadar Lamb commemorating the 1916 Rising and it's Carlow links; archaeological finds from the Carlow by-pass including the county'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 Calvary 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. View the special exhibition on St. Willibrord, the patron saint of Luxembourg and his County Carlow connection. 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. Essential on the itinerary of school tours, students have the opportunity to handle historic objects as part of a tour.

OPENING HOURS

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

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



The tourist office is located at the junction of Tullow Street and College Street (within the Carlow County Museum and Library buildings) in the centre of Carlow town. Many publications on the local area are available free of charge including the *Carlow Food Trail*, *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

Visit Carlow

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- Places To Stay
- Things To Do
- Places To See
- Restaurant Guide
- Festivals & Events
And much much more.....



Visit Carlow is a FREE interactive travel guide to County Carlow. Available across all platforms, the mobile app details everything there is to see and do in Carlow with information on family activities, sightseeing, museums, restaurants, pubs, shops, places to stay and more. Whether you want to explore the Carlow Garden Trail, grab a bite to eat or get your hair done, Visit Carlow has all the information you need in one, easily accessible place. Once you decide on what you want to do or where you want to go, the app will take you there using the power of Google Maps. Whatever you are looking for, Visit Carlow has all the information you need to make the most out of your stay!

t: 083-0363631 e: kevin@visitcarlow.ie

VISUAL

Explore, Engage and Inspire

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

Engage with amazing 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: info@visualcarlow.ie

w: www.visualcarlow.ie



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: Corpus Christi, Saturday June 22nd, from 8.30 – 9.30 p.m. Heritage Week, Sunday August 18th and Sunday August 25th 12.30 – 4 p.m. For access to the museum at other times 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 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 enjoy the Woodland Walk along the Mountain Stream. 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 June 7th – 9th.

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

OPENING TIMES: Open most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, May – September 12 – 4 p.m.

Check website for exact details. On all other dates tours of the house can be arranged by appointment for groups only by telephoning 059-9771884. 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* in March 2015 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 the Goddess located in the old castle dungeons. The castle offers a fabulous woodland playground, as well as a charming tearoom and giftshop. The gardens are well worth a visit in their own right and were mainly laid out in the 17th century by the Esmondese 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. – 5 p.m. daily. House tours 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. daily. For special events outside these times see website – 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, U12 €5. Prior booking is essential to avail of family and group discounts.



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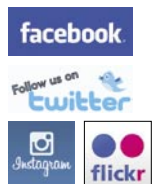
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heritage attractions

Lisnavagh House and Gardens

Lisnavagh
Rathvilly
Co. Carlow
R93 PX61

t: 059-9161473
e: events@lisnavagh.com
w: www.lisnavagh.com



Lisnavagh House offers the ultimate mix of homeliness and grandeur, making it a most appealing destination for those seeking somewhere unique. The purpose-built garden wing (with space for up to 170 diners), outdoor ceremony spaces, miles of walkways and 600 acres of farmland and woodland allows Lisnavagh to provide great facilities for a wide range of events in a stunning location.

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.

OPENING TIMES: Wednesday July 10th, open air theatre featuring *Wuthering Heights*, 7.30 p.m. – one of the most enchanting and unmissable events of the summer.

ADM: Adult €19 / Child €14 / Family (two adults and two children) €56. 10% discount for parties of 10 or more. Location: The Lawns @ Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow. *outdoor event.

Wednesday August 7th, open air theatre featuring *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, 7.30 p.m. **ADM:** Adult: €17, Concession: €14, U12s: €7. Outdoor event – hail, rain or snow the show will go on! An indoor alternative will be available for both plays in the event of heavy rain. Refreshments available for purchase through the coffee shop or feel free to bring your own picnic hamper.

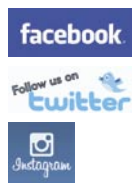
Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th, Christmas Fair, 12.30 – 5.30 p.m. Indoor event. Coffee shop open. Features artisan foods, handmade goods and giftware including wood crafts, jewellery, art and soaps.



Shankill Castle

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, visit in spring for snowdrops, daffodils and tulips, summer for the meadows, art exhibitions and sunny walks, and autumn for Scare Fest at Halloween.

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. Check the website for booking details of the annual events programme. 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.stmullinsheritagecentre.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.



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www.rathwood.com

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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.



Rancho Reilly Pet Farm and Childrens' Activity Centre

Springhill Road, Carlow
R93 Y8C2

t: 087-7701181

e: ranchoreilly@gmail.com
w: www.ranchoreilly.com



Set on five acres, this friendly, family-run pet farm features a range of animals including bearded dragons, snakes, pot bellied pigs, reindeer, goats, miniature horses, donkeys, rabbits, guinea pigs and fowl. Activities include pony rides, the Rancho Reilly Barrel Train, obstacle course, go-karts, bikes, tyre swings, slides, football and lots more. Ideal for a family day out, birthday party, school tour, kiddies camps and Easter event. Café serves scones, muffins, tart and other sweet treats, toasted sandwiches, dressed fries, nuggets and sausages. **ADM:** Day trips children over 1 €7.50, adults €3.50. **HOW TO FIND US:** Located on the Springhill Road on the outskirts of Carlow town, 4km from Graiguecullen Swimming Pool and 1.6km from Carlow Post Office. **OPENING TIMES:** 7 days per week during school holidays 11.30am – 6pm. For other times consult the website or visit facebook: Rancho Reillys



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Woodford Dolmen Hotel Kilkeny Road, Carlow T: 059 9142002

E: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie

Lat: 52.813761 Lon:-6.951320



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.



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 treats. Afternoon tea available with advance booking. Chocolate is gluten free.
HOW TO FIND US: On the R725 between Tullow and Shillelagh, 5km from Tullow, next to Rathwood.



OPENING TIMES: Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday and Bank Holidays 1 – 6 p.m. 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.

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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

facebook

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.



G2 (The Grid Karting)

Unit 2, Strawhall
Industrial Estate,
Cannery Road, Carlow
R93 DX81

t: 059-9143642

e: info@g2.ie

w: www.g2.ie

facebook



G2 is the largest indoor adventure centre in Ireland. Suitable for all ages including families, hens and stags, birthday parties, schools, team building and corporate events. Large range of activities, all indoor, including karting, tag archery, bubble soccer, wall climbing, roller skating and zipline. Whatever the occasion, G2 Adventure has something for everyone.

HOW TO FIND US: Strawhall Industrial 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.

OPENING TIMES: Monday – Thursday 4 – 9 p.m., Friday 1 – 9 p.m. Saturday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.



The Ivy Rooms

Unit 8
Barrow Valley Retail Park
Graiguecullen, Carlow
R93 T2W2

t: 059-9137714

e: info@ivyrooms.com

facebook

Eleven championship Shendra snooker tables plus two regular snooker tables, six American pool tables, two English pool tables and three table tennis tables. Venue for national and international snooker championships. Six regular pool tables are home to the Carlow Pool League. Pool coaching for juniors every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. Diner open daily from 9 a.m. Monday – Friday and from 11 a.m. Saturday – Sunday. Serving all day breakfast, burgers, chips and much more. Video games area.

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: €10 (snooker), €8 (pool and table tennis). Special daytime rate available. 20% 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

facebook

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:** Seven days per week. Times and details available on www.madformodels.ie. **ADMISSION:** Free.



Mount Brandon Pottery School

Tinnahinch
Graigenamanagh
Co. Kilkenny
R95 P046

t: 085-1108257

e: mountbrandonpottery@gmail.com

facebook

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 Graigenamanagh. 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/Graigenamanagh 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.

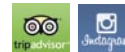


Carlow Tours

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

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 has facilitated diverse groups such as a touring Japanese girls High School choir performing a tour of Ireland in April 2017 (which culminated in their winning of the Lady Dorothy Mayer Memorial Trophy at the Cork International Choral Festival), marching bands and art and craft groups. All of the students benefit from an immersive host family experience and classes that provide for a structured approach to cultural learning, organised activities and excursions. Equinox also offer short and long-term overseas study and cultural programmes for local students of all ages and school groups wishing to learn a new language immersively, experience a new culture or simply enjoy a school tour abroad.



artisan food and drink attractions

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. Founded in 1996, 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'Haras 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 and ciders 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 15th year in business in 2019, 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 the wide variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, meats, juices and home baking on offer. Other foodstuffs available include organic and dry-aged meats, cheeses, juices, jams, chutneys, free-range and farm fresh eggs. A huge array of home baking also features gluten-free and spelt breads. Raw food, wheat grass and fresh flowers are also on sale. There is a shared craft stall which rotates between pottery, candles and wood turned 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:** May 1st – October 31st: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday. November – April 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday, 1 – 5 p.m. Sunday. **ADMISSION:** Free.



artisan food and drink attractions

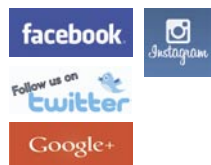
Royal Oak Distillery

Royal Oak,
Co. Carlow
R21 E086

t: 059-9186653

e: info@royaloakdistillery.com

w: www.royaloakdistillery.com



Royal Oak Distillery is a world-class, Irish whiskey distillery and visitor centre set amid 40 acres of parkland on an 18th century estate. One of the largest working distilleries in Ireland, visitors to Royal Oak Distillery can see first-hand how all three types of Irish whiskey – pot still, malt and grain – are created under the one roof. Visitors can see, touch, taste and experience the craft of distilling from field to bottle, learning about the passion and dedication that goes in to every drop. After the tour relax in the Still House Lounge or stroll around the estate and take in Holloden House (1755) and the beautiful scenery that makes Royal Oak the perfect place to create exceptional quality whiskeys. Facilities include whiskey tours, picnic area, access to parkland and wheelchair access.



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 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; Walshes'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.

The Village Dairy

Clonmore Business Park
Clonmore, Killeslin,
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 Killeslin 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 October 2018.



Available from most local retail shops in Carlow.

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

Carlow 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 goats milk is used to make a tomme type cheese. Cows 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, Rath's Londis, Pollerton Road, Carlow and some retail shops. This is a working farm, but may be visited by appointment.

carlow cook book and food producers

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 and Avoca.** 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.



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 Carlow Farmers Market, 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, small conferences and bespoke small weddings. They use their own organic meat produce in all their catering.



new
2019

COMING SOON: Coolanowle's Foodhall & Café due to open on Dublin Street, Carlow Town in summer 2019.

Gaelic Escargot

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



Established in 2013, Gaelic Escargot is the first snail farm in Ireland and the only research and development centre for the production of free range escargot. Gaelic Escargot is also assisting Irish snail farmers in procuring products as well as imparting skills for the breeding and rearing of snails. They provide full mentoring for existing snail farmers as well as to those aspiring, offering training sessions, breeding stock and ongoing support. Gaelic Escargot have been involved in creating 13 snail farms around Ireland. They have developed a range of value added products (escargot in brine and marinated escargot) which are available through LaRousse Foods or directly from the farm.



Silver Spear Gin

Ballydarton House
Fenagh, Co. Carlow
R21 DY98
t: 059-9727140
e: info@silverspeargin.com
w: www.silverspeargin.com



The award winning Silver Spear Gin is based at the historic Ballydarton House in Fenagh, County Carlow. Since launching in late 2016, it has gained the reputation of being a high quality premium gin, which is proudly pouring domestically and internationally. It is named after the silver spear won by Captain John Henry Watson, the former occupant of Ballydarton House for horsemanship skills, who is also famed for being the father of polo. Silver Spear has a wonderfully aromatic nose with pronounced notes of coriander and fresh lime with undertones of juniper and hints of spice at the finish. A balanced and very smooth gin which means the gin can be enjoyed with or without a tonic or as part of a cocktail. Silver Spear Gin was awarded Best Irish Contemporary Style Gin at the World Gin Awards 2018 in London. Available from O'Brien's nationwide, Carpenters Off Licence, Carlow, Carry Out Carlow and other leading off licences and on trade premises.

SILVER SPEAR GIN



carlow craft producers

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
Ducketts 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.



**Cushendale
Woollen Mills**



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



Visit one of Ireland's oldest working woollen mills where you will learn about Graigueenamanagh's link with wool since 1204, the Cushen family history since the early 1800s, their unique process and see an 1890s spinning mule in operation. Tours daily 1st April to 30th Sept; Monday to Friday 3 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. Price €7 per person. Please book in advance, info@cushendale.ie. Visitors can also view the range of colourful blankets, scarves, knitting yarn and lots more in the mill shop. Truly worth a visit to see one of Ireland's few authentic woollen mills in operation.
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.



Donard Workshop

Ballymoon
Bagenalstown
Co. Carlow
R21 PX67
t: 087-9700044
e: marydoyle.donardworkshop@gmail.com



**new
2019**

Mary Doyle began working in the craft industry when she was 18 years old. Originally, Mary started her business in her native Donard Co. 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.

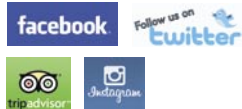
All her products are synonymous with the best Celtic contemporary design and are guaranteed Irish handmade. Mary's vast experience manifests itself in the uniqueness and quality of her products which are in great demand in Ireland and worldwide.



Duiske Glass Gift Shop

High Street
Graigueenamanagh
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.



Lazer Now



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



**new
2019**

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.



NicAngels Candles

The Courtyard at
Ducketts Grove,
Kneestown, Co. Carlow
R93 RF80
t: 085-1471465
e: nicangelsinfo@gmail.com
w: nicangelscandles.com



NicAngels Candles individually, hand marbled, 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 11am to 5pm May and June – see facebook NicAngels Candles and Gift Shop Ducketts 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.**






CARLOW'S TRADITIONAL IRISH PUB
Shamrock Square, Carlow
Restaurant Tel: 059-9130911 Fax: 059-9130464
Email: info@teachdolmain.ie

AWARD WINNING PUB AND RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST
From 9.30 am
LUNCH SERVED
Between
12.15pm – 3pm daily
– Also –
EVENING/À LA CARTE MENU
Available from
3pm till late

Value Menu
2 courses
for €21.00 or
3 Courses for
€24.50

Special party
or group menus
available in our
private bar and
restaurant

For reservations call our Duty Manager

COUNTRY KITCHEN

— RESTAURANT —

HADDENS CENTRE, CARLOW 059-9140613

- ALL DAY BREAKFAST
- FULL SELECTION OF HOT AND COLD FOOD
- EXTENSIVE SALAD BAR
- FRESHLY BAKED HOMEMADE SCONES
- FRESH JUICE AND SMOOTHIE BAR
- SELECTION OF PANINIS MADE TO ORDER
- GLUTEN FREE FOODS AVAILABLE
- SLIMMER'S HEALTHIER OPTIONS

OUTDOOR SEATING ON THE TERRACE

FOOD TO GO AVAILABLE

Longest established restaurant in Carlow Town. Celebrating 33 years in business Open 8am - 6pm






30 years in Business 1988 - 2018

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 5pm - 10.30pm • Saturday 5pm - 11.30pm
Sunday 3.30pm - 10.30pm • CLOSED EVERY TUESDAY
Delivery Service Available

Carlow's Longest Established Authentic Chinese Restaurant. Family Run since 1988

No. 2 Kennedy Avenue, Carlow **T: 059 913 1986**

Check Our Website for a Selection of Mini Break Offers

Step House Hotel Borris, Co. Carlow
T 059-9773209
E info@stephousehotel.ie
W www.stephousehotel.ie

Reddys of Carlow

Carlow's Oldest Family Run Pub

★ Bar ★ Lounge ★ Restaurant ★ Function Rooms

OPEN 7 DAYS

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- BREAKFAST
- LUNCH: Hot Carvery and Snack Menu
- SUCCULENT STEAKS AND FRESH SEAFOOD OUR SPECIALITY
- BARFOOD served all day
- PRE-DINNER COCKTAILS
- DINNER AND À LA CARTE
- SNACKS and fresh brewed coffee
- LIVE MUSIC in front bar every Saturday & Sunday

FUNCTION ROOMS FOR PRIVATE OR CORPORATE PARTIES

67 TULLOW STREET, CARLOW
Tel: 059-9142224 Fax No: 059 9170788
Email: info@reddyscarlow.ie
www.reddyscarlow.ie



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 Tyndall 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, Butter 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.

4a 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. Seating 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 Athy, Carlow, Graigueenamanagh and New Ross. Barges carried beet to Ireland's first sugar factory at Carlow and mulling 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/Graiguecullen 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 Graiguecullen. 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 croppy 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 motto 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.

13 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, Ballykealey House and Duckett's Grove, outside Carlow Town. It is a curiously proportioned building with a tall pediment and no windows on the façade.

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 1820s 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 inherited the Assembly Rooms from his uncle, Walter Foley. 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 London 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 older 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 ordinations 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 Fintan Lalor, the agrarian agitator and social activist, the Fenian John O'Leary and Frank O'Meara, the impressionist painter. The 1990s saw the College 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., James of Kildare and Leighlin. The architect was 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.

Avlon House Bed & Breakfast

A traditional boutique Irish Bed & Breakfast, where quality meets the personal touch



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Tel: 059 9174222 Fax: 059 9173829
W: www.avlonhouse.com
Email: avlonhouse@eircom.net

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Open lunch and dinner for group bookings.

Clashganny, Borris, Co. Carlow
059 9771003

Georgina Campbell Newcomer of the Year 2014
Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018
Carlow Chamber Dining Award 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018
Full bar licence with a selection of local gins and craft beers

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Learn how we make our delicious chocolate & ice cream and have a go yourself! Great fun for all ages. Workshops require advance booking; Mould making available daily without booking.

WWW.CHOCOLATEGARDEN.IE
Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow (Next door to Rathwood)
Tel. 059-648 1999 Email info@chocolategarden.ie
Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm & Sunday 1pm - 6pm



Riverbank Restaurant

Food served daily from 10am

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
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Dinner and A La Carte Menu served until 9pm

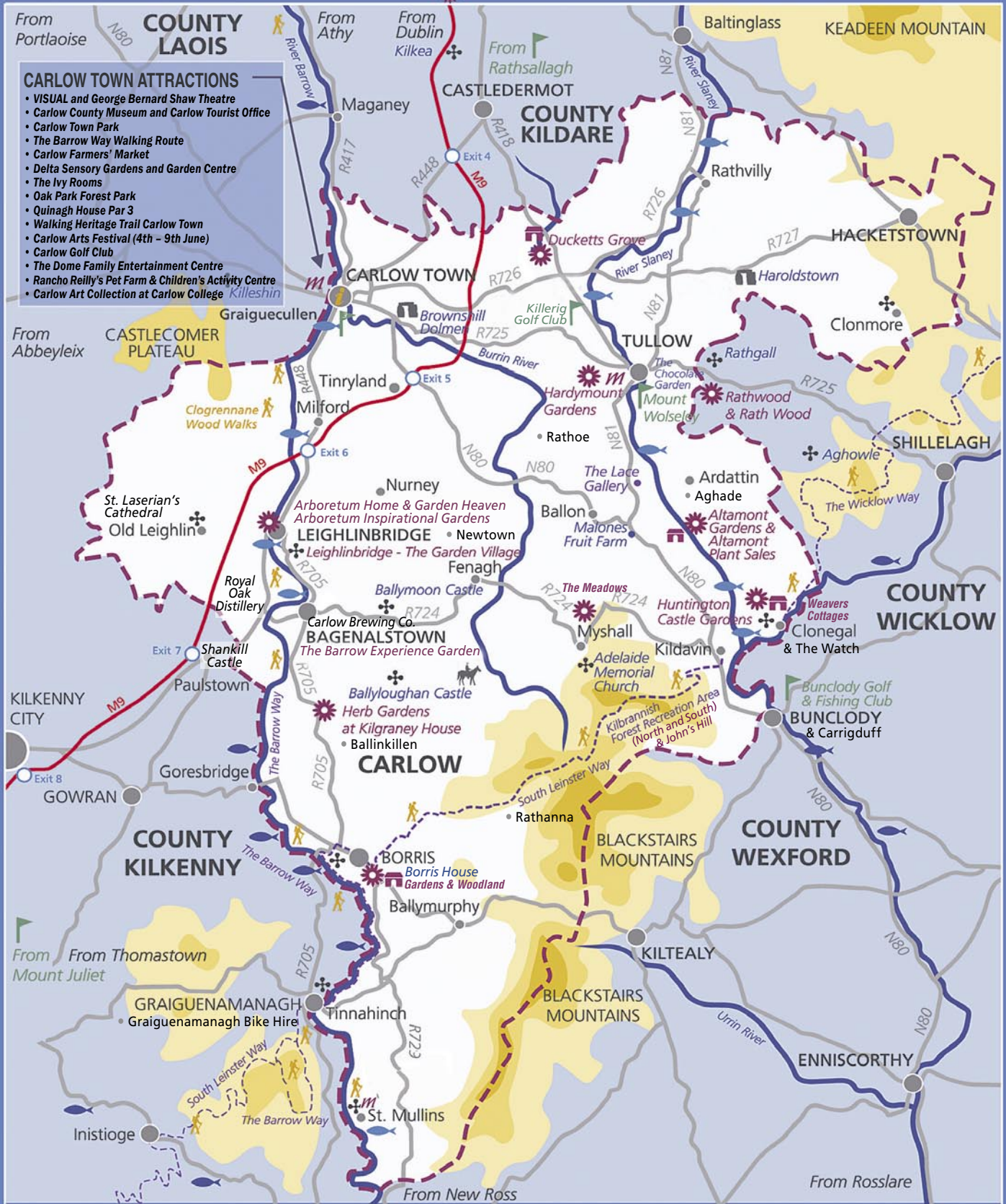
Extensive choice of steaks and fresh fish



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Phone: 059-9152944
Proprietor: Sharon Smyth



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- Fishing
- Carlow Tourist Office
- Gardens
- Scenic Walks
- Dolmen
- Golf / Par 3 Golf
- Museum
- Heritage
- Horse Riding

Bar 1808

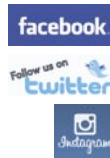
Step House Hotel
Main Street
Borris, Co. Carlow
R95 V2CR

t: 059-9773209

e: info@stephousehotel.ie

w: www.stephousehotel.ie

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

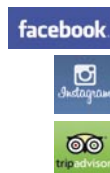
t: 059-9133111

e: info@dinnri.com

w: www.dinnri.com

f: www.facebook.com/BrooksCarlow

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.



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 light 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

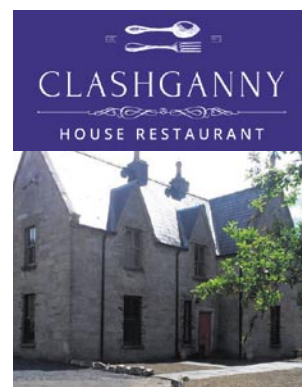
e: clashgannyhouse@gmail.com

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. Clashganny House 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 and 2018. Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence 2015 – 2018. 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 beautiful 170-year-old stable yard, the Coach House Café offers seasonal light lunches, homemade cakes, organic coffee and speciality teas in a lovely rustic setting with indoor and outdoor seating. Everything is made from scratch on-site, with the seasonal ingredients grown in the walled garden or sourced from local producers, and organic where possible. **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 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Monday to Saturday

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 33 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
Graigie Village Shopping Centre
Graigiecullen
Carlow Town
R93 A2C9
t: 059-9133422 / 087-9360991
e: info@currygardencarlow.ie

facebook

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 takeaway for an outside catering event. Ample free and secure car parking available at all times with bus tours and large groups very welcome. Takeaway and delivery service also available.



Le Boheme
Flemington House
1 Brown Street
Carlow
R93 WOD1
t: 059-9164832

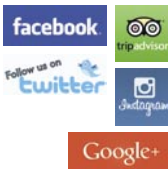
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new
2019

La Boheme is Carlow's newest and only fully licensed Bar and Tapas outlet. Fitted out to the highest level and with award-winning catering staff, this establishment offers a true alternative in levels of comfort and service in Carlow Town. Located in the centre of the town's cultural quarter, opposite Carlow Cathedral and Carlow's National VISUAL Arts Centre, the outlet can only be described as 'high end' and provides guests with an experience they will want to repeat.



Le Fermier Restaurant
Haymarket
Carlow
R93 DP98
t: 059-9170771
e: lefermiercarlow@gmail.com



Carlow Restaurant Newcomer of The Year 2017 – Restaurant Association of Ireland (RAI) Awards. Situated in the beautifully restored Haymarket across from Carlow Town Hall, Le Fermier is a nice relaxing spot to get away from the hustle and bustle of it all. Enjoy the pleasure of freshly prepared dishes, simply cooked and packed full of flavour and bursting with natural nutrition. Recognised for the quality of its natural food, Le Fermier has received a Gold Standard Restaurant plaque in 2016 and 2017. There are plenty of gluten free options. Ample car park spaces surround the restaurant.



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



Recently launched is Jo's Pantry and Café selling delicious fresh, seasonal produce, Irish and French cheeses, olives, preserves, homemade pestos, dips and fresh breads.

Easily accessible as a quick lunch stop, a more relaxed luncheon style affair or for dinner on Saturday night. Serves the freshest possible seasonal produce that comes straight from the organic kitchen garden that very morning. The ethos is on combining seasonal ingredients, using flavours, textures, and colours. The Green Barn's 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. 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.



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

facebook



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

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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).

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Opened by James Kehoe in 1979 and now run with the help of his two sons Paddy (manager) and George (chef). Contemporary Irish and international cuisine using the finest local products. À la carte menu features specials every evening with fresh fish from the Ronan family in Duncannon, Wexford, red meats from Dawn Foods and Ballon Meats, Co. Carlow. Chicken is supplied by Manor Farm with cheese from Elizabeth Bradley, Fenagh. AA Rosette Accredited Restaurant for Culinary Excellence 2016 – 2018. Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2016 – 2018 for “having one of the most outstanding wine lists in the world”.

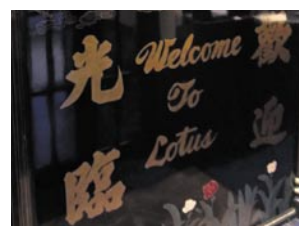


Best Hotel Restaurant in
Leinster 2017.

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.

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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
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.

facebook



Pimento Wine and Tapas Bar is located in the centre of Carlow Town and was chosen as the *Yes Chef* Best Casual Dining venue in Leinster. Paddy Mullins and his team use as many local suppliers as possible and source the freshest ingredients to produce mouth-watering tapas dishes. The menu is regularly updated with new specials and changes. 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
Woodford Dolmen Hotel
Kilkenny Road,
Carlow
R93 N207
t: 059-9142002
e: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie
w: www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie

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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.
Exit 6 off M9 motorway
R93 P9F4
t: 059-9721558
e: info@arboretum.ie
w: www.arboretum.ie

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The award-winning Rachel's Garden Café at Arboretum offers a mix of both self and assisted service featuring locally sourced produce. Full Irish breakfast is served from 9 a.m. and the delicious lunch menu is served from 12 noon offering an extensive range of soups, salads, daily specials and roast of the day. A particular favourite served in Rachel's Garden Café is the beef braised in O'Hara's Stout which is brewed by the Carlow Brewing Company, only 5 km down the road. The delicious tempting desserts are all made on the premises and special dietary needs are catered for with gluten, sugar or dairy free options. Full children's menu and an indoor and outdoor play zone and fun maze. Delightful afternoon tea options are also available on booking. Bookings for groups and tours are welcome.



The Railway House Bar and Restaurant
Church Street

Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
R21 W688

t: 059-9720676

e: doylestherailwayhouse@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



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. Children's menu and free outdoor children's play garden makes it 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.



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



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 2010*, Best Atmospheric Restaurant *Georgina Campbell Guide 2010*.



Tara Arms Bar and Seasons Restaurant
Church Street

Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 T6K8

t: 059-9151305

e: thtaraarms@gmail.com

"We have an open fire, a friendly

welcome and a nice smile!"



Family run, located in the centre of Tullow, Tara Arms Bar and Seasons Restaurant is committed to offering good honest food with something to suit all tastes from breakfast, carvery lunches right through to late night dining. Whether it's a quick snack or a leisurely meal with friends, you will be welcomed in the Tara Arms. Try the New Seasons Restaurant where you can escape from the hustle and bustle and relax in its beautiful décor.



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. Sunday – Thursday, 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. No bookings required.



The Weeping Thaiger
Mill Lane, Castle Hill,
Carlow
R93 P8P8
t: 059-9137000
w: www.weepingthaiger.ie



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 & 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.



Recently 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.



café's

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, Subway and Papa John's Pizza. The foodhall includes a Spar shop with Insomnia coffee, Smooch ice cream 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 Town
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.



new 2019 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.



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 home made scones and cakes. Or why not have a glass of wine or craft beer with an extensive menu which includes home made 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. 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 Topaz Service Station on the N80 and Junction 5 of the M9 with self-order kiosks, table service and signature burger range. 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: 053-9376388



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 available in the summer months. Open daily February – October 11 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.



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

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.



**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



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.



Thrive Café
Market Square,
Tullow, Co. Carlow
R93 W3K8
t: 059-9151607
e: thrivecafetullow@gmail.com
w: www.thrivecafe.ie



**new
2019** Thrive Café is dedicated to providing processed-free, refined sugar-free, nutrient dense breakfasts, snacks, smoothies and lunches to customers. They cater for all diets with a range of GF, vegan, vegetarian, dairy free options available and host a range of events and classes promoting a healthy lifestyle from within. Visit their café on the square in Tullow 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. Social dancing every Friday night from 10 p.m. 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 welcoming staff. Great value lunch options available.



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



Carpe Diem is in its 9th year of business, considered by many to be a hidden gem in Carlow. Winner of Carlow's best licensed premises at the 2016 Carlow Chamber Business Awards. Three open fires to choose from on a cold night, and an open roofed beer garden for a sunny day. A warm welcome and the creamiest pints in town await you at Carpe Diem.



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 relax 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 Bar's 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. Live bands play there every Saturday night and 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>facebook</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>facebook</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>facebook</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>facebook</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>facebook</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, complementary 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>facebook</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>facebook</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>facebook</p>	<p>Instagram</p>	<p>A sports bar showing all matches, sporting events and horse racing. It has a secure walled-in beer garden and live music every Saturday and Sunday. 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>facebook</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 Bar & Seasons Restaurant Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 T6K8 t: 059-9151305 An open fire, a friendly welcome and a nice smile for everyone.</p>	<p>facebook</p>	<p>Live music every Saturday 10 until late in the lounge. Bands every Bank Holiday Sunday Night. Home of rugby in Tullow with seven high definition screens to choose from showing every sporting event. Good honest food with something to suit all tastes from breakfast, carvery lunches right through to late night dining. In the centre of Tullow Town.</p>		
<p>The Thatch Maryborough Street Graiguecullen, Carlow R93 H4F8 t: 059-9134108</p>	<p>facebook</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>facebook</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. Music Thursday – Saturday night.</p>		

WEEKLY MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

AD = Adult Dancing T = Traditional L = Live Music
DJ = Disc Jockey M = Music in Bar

MONDAY

(T) **The Seven Oaks Hotel**, Athy Road, Carlow
t: 059-9131308

TUESDAY

(AD) **The Seven Oaks Hotel**, Athy Road, Carlow
t: 059-9131308

THURSDAY

(T) **Teach Bar**, Teach Dolmain, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9130911
(L) **Teach Dolmain**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9130911
(DJ) **Tully's Bar**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9131862
(AD) **The Woodford Dolmen Hotel**, Kilkenny Road, Carlow
t: 059-9142002

FRIDAY

(L) **Mount Wolseley**, Tullow, Co. Carlow t: 059-9180100
(DJ) **The Foundry Nightclub**, Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9133111
(L) **Teach Dolmain**, Tullow Street Carlow t: 059-9130911
(L) **Talbot Hotel**, Portlaoise Road, Carlow t: 059-9153000
(L) **Tully's Bar**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9131862
(AD) **The Ardattin Inn**, Ardattin, Carlow t: 059-9155652

SATURDAY

(L) **The Tower Live**, Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9133111 – see facebook for details
(DJ) **The Foundry Nightclub**, Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9133111
(L) **Mount Wolseley**, Tullow, Co. Carlow t: 059-9180100
(DJ) **Teach Dolmain**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9130911
(L) **Teach Bar**, Teach Dolmain, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9130911
(L) **Talbot Hotel**, Portlaoise Road, Carlow t: 059-9153000
(DJ) **The Barracks**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9133111
(L) **Reddy's Bar & Restaurant**, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9142224
(DJ) **Tully's Bar**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9131862
(L) **Tara Arms**, Church Street, Tullow t: 059-9153105
(L) **The Lord Bagenal**, Main St., Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
t: 059-9774000
(L) **Dinn Rí Bar**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9133111
(L) **The Pint Depot**, Royal Oak, Bagenalstown t: 059-9723723

SUNDAY

(L) **Reddy's Bar & Restaurant**, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9142224
(L) **The Barracks**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9133111
(L) **Teach Bar, Teach Dolmain**, Tullow Street, Carlow
t: 059-9130911
(L) **Tully's Bar**, Tullow Street, Carlow t: 059-9131862
(L) **The Pint Depot**, Royal Oak, Bagenalstown t: 059-9723723

Carlow International
English Language
School (CIELS)



CIELS Carlow International
English Language School

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.25 years). CIELS is an exclusive, family-run school of English language and Irish culture; its non-saturation of visiting students is part of its exclusivity. 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 in the teaching of English language. 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, CIELS specialises in the areas of summer vacation English and Irish culture, vocational training with English, school integration programmes, English for academic purpose and work placements. CIELS has also designed and piloted a European Erasmus Plus 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 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. English Language Ireland 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 are supported in their immersive language courses by 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), Erasmus Plus, Summer Junior Camps, High School (integration and full or part academic year), mini-stays and work experience as well as IELTS and Cambridge exam preparation courses.



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 29 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 11 and 21. The ruins of the early 14th century **Ballymoon Castle** and 13th century **Ballyloughan Castle** are located near the town – see page 46.



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 43 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 45. **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 page 45.

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 a map board and heritage trail 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, **Fáilte Ireland Visitor Information Point**, **Siopa Glas**, national award-winning community shop, **Altamont Gardens** (pg. 47), **Lace Gallery** (pg. 17) and **Malone's Fruit Farm** (pg. 20).

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 14.



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 page 45. **Coarse angling** – see page 44. 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 46. **Carlow Art Collection** for visitors to enjoy at Carlow College. **VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art** – see page 13.



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 14, **Weavers Cottages** – see page 17, **Wicklow Way Walking Route**, see page 45.



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 45 for details.
Visit www.clonegalkildavin.ie

LEIGHLINBRIDGE: With its narrow, winding streets that rise and fall with the lie of the land, grey stone malhouses 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 50. Ireland's first all-county **World War 1 Memorial. Black Castle** – see page 46. **Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven** – see page 47.
ACTIVITIES: Walking along the **Barrow Way** – see page 45 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. **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 page 45 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 pages 14/16 for details. **Rathwood and Rath Wood Forest Walks** – see page 50 for details.
ACTIVITIES: Golfing at nearby Mount Wolseley and Killeerig Golf Club – see pages 40/41 for details. **GPS: 52.802535, -6.737261**

golf clubs

Regardless of skills or ability, the visitor to Carlow will find an impressive variety of golfing facilities to suit all levels. The novice is also well catered for with a pitch and putt and par 3 course. All of the courses listed here aim to provide the golfer – whether beginner or advanced with an unforgettable experience and a warm, friendly welcome. For non-golfing partners and families, there is a treasure trove of places to visit and things to do, which are listed in this guide.

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.

CARLOW OPEN WEEK: Friday 31st May – Saturday 8th June inclusive. One of the most enjoyable things about the start of summer is **Carlow Golf Club Open Week** which features plenty of prizes, team spirit and a friendly welcome.

COUNTY CARLOW GOLF CLASSIC: Carlow Golf Club is once again part of the County Carlow Golf Classic from September 2nd to 4th, with play taking place in the club on Monday September 2nd.

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: Clubs, trolley and buggy hire available at an additional cost.

OPEN COMPETITIONS: Open seniors competition on the third Tuesday of the month. Full schedule of open days on www.mountwolseley.ie/open-days.html



golf clubs

Borris Golf Club

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

facebook

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 meters) – 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

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019 and home to the 109th PGA Championship 19th – 21st August 2019.

facebook

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:** Ladies and Gents Open Singles are held every Wednesday and regular open events are held throughout the year. 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.

Killerig Golf Club

Killerig, Co. Carlow
R93 V5X8
t: 059-9163000
e: killeriggolf@gmail.com
w: www.killerig-golf.ie

HIRE SERVICES:
Clubs, caddy cars and
buggy hire.

facebook

Follow us on
twitter

"Killerig is enjoyable for the Club golfer, and when required capable of challenging the best" – Des Smyth

Located just outside Carlow Town in a fabulous setting with the Wicklow Mountains to the east and the Killeshin Hills to the west. Imaginatively designed by Des Smyth and Declan Branigan, this par 72 championship course strives to create the most unique, exciting and challenging golf experience with meticulously groomed fairways and greens.

The course, which is playable year round provides a challenging game of golf, with water in play on six of its 18 U.S.G.A specification greens. A range of tees ensure that everyone from the big hitter to the more conservative, casual player is well catered for. The warm welcome extended and the air of relaxation sets the tone for a most enjoyable golf experience. The clubhouse boasts a fully stocked pro shop, shower and changing facilities. Visitors can enjoy delicious food and refreshments from the extensive Branigans Bar menu while admiring the spectacular views of the course and surrounding countryside from the clubhouse and balcony. **TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole championship parkland – 6,742 yards (6,165 metres) – Par 72. **OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. Full bar facilities, open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. – close. Bar menu. **GREEN FEES:** Individual Monday – Thursday: €18 or €10 with a member. Friday Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays: €22 or €15 with a member. Flexi golf time available, book and play the same day. Great packages on offer for groups and societies. Seniors day first Wednesday of each month. **Big team events 2019:** Celebrity Day June 8th and Charity Day September 7th. Full calendar of events on website and on BRS. Book online under www.killerig-golf.ie on BRS or call the clubhouse.



Quinagh House Par 3

Quinagh House
Carlow
R93 V741
t: 059-9142088

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.



bike rental and bike tours

Barrow Way Bike Hire
Barrowline Cruisers
Vicarstown, Co. Laois
t: 057-8626060
R32 Y004
e: info@barrowwaybikes.ie
w: www.barrowwaybikes.ie



Explore the beautiful hidden gems of the Midlands at a leisurely pace on our quality hybrid, mountain and electric bikes. Follow the ancient towpath along the stunning Grand Canal and River Barrow. Bikes come equipped with helmet, lock, pump and puncture repair kit. Collection and delivery (at your accommodation or hire directly from the base at Vicarstown).



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. 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

Go-With-The-Flow River Adventures
t: 087-2529700
e: info@gowiththeflow.ie
w: www.gowiththeflow.ie



Clashganny on River Barrow:
GPS: 52.559831, -6.91537

Explore the most beautiful and enchanting waterway in Ireland by canoe. Families need look no further if it's adventure and fun you want for your great day out. Go-With-The-Flow are a favourite with those seeking spills and thrills in an action packed event. Qualified guides see you through all the whitewater, over all the weirs and waterfalls and down the rapids of the River Barrow. No experience necessary, all you need is a bunch of friends and time to chill. Tailored family learning days, corporate and social club days and individual canoe hire also available. You can spend two or three days just idling along the river, stopping off in every little village along the way.



Paddle Your Own Canoe
Milltown, Borris,
Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.596667, -6.946639
t: 087-4140461
e: info@paddleyourowncanoe.ie
w: www.paddleyourowncanoe.ie



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.



Pure Adventure
The Quay
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

new
2015

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.

facebook

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.



triathlon

TRI795 Carlow Sprint Triathlon
Carlow Town Park
Graiguecullen
Carlow
Sunday 19th May from 12 p.m.

facebook

Starting from Carlow Town Park this popular triathlon features a 750m swim, a 20km bike ride and a 5km run. The swim is an out-and-back course, while the cycle goes to Tolerton before returning. The run is along the banks of the River Barrow. A great spectacle for those who just want to come along and enjoy the fun – features some of Ireland's best triathlon athletes with some international competitors. Music and entertainment in Carlow Town Park.




Proud to serve the people of Carlow for the past 20 years

McDonald's Kennedy Avenue, Carlow.
Open from 8am-11pm
Open til 12pm Thur, Fri & Sat.

McDonald's Drive Thru Tinryland, Carlow.
Junction 5 M9
Open 24/7



boat hire

Barrowline Cruisers & Bike Hire

Vicarstown
Co. Laois
R32 E22T



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,
Co. Carlow

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

new
2019

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

new
2019

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 2019 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.



Carlow is a treasure trove of walking routes catering for everyone from the casual walker to the veteran hiker. Looped walks are located throughout the county, with flat walking available along the beautiful Barrow Way and hiking for the more adventurous along the scenic South Leinster and Wicklow Ways. If you're seeking peace, tranquillity, fresh air and harmony with nature, then Carlow's charming walks await you. Fun, adventure, or quiet reflection – you choose. We have it all and it's all for FREE.



Walking the Barrow Way at Tinnahinch.

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. The full length of the Barrow Way from Robertstown to St. Mullins is 113km.

STAGE 1 of the Barrow Way starts in Robertstown, County Kildare and a distance of 23km takes you to 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 features many historical and architectural buildings with old bridges and houses.

STAGE 3 runs from Athy to Carlow – 19km. 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, 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 and industrial gems in the town of Bagenalstown.

STAGE 5 takes the walker from Bagenalstown to Graiguenamanagh – 26km. This route passes the pretty villages of Goresbridge and Borris before ending in Tinnahinch/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 Tinnahinch/Graiguenamanagh to St. Mullins – 6km. This stretch has beautiful woodland surroundings with a strong ecclesiastical theme in the religious settlement at St. Mullins where the walk ends. Set on a glorious stretch of the Barrow Valley, it includes a picnic area.

the 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 covering 102km in length.

The predominant features in the landscape are Mount Leinster, Brandon Hill and the river valleys of the Barrow, Nore and Suir. This stretch can be comfortably walked in five days but strong walkers can finish it in three days.

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**

Carlow has a selection of great looped walks at Oak Park Forest Park and Clogrennane Wood, close to Carlow Town, and at Clashganny Forest, Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area (north and south) and John's Hill, all near Borris in south Carlow.

birdwatch ireland carlow

facebook

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 each month. These are suitable for all age groups, from beginners to experts. For more information or to be added to the branch mailing list, please e-mail the secretary at birdwatchcarlow@gmail.com. Branch events are advertised on the "Wild Carlow" facebook page. Visitors to the county are most welcome.



© Brian Power

walking clubs

facebook

Tullow Mountaineering Club organise graded mountain walks every Sunday from Barrack Street, Carlow Town (opposite Carpenter's Pub). Cars normally depart at 9.30 a.m. sharp with walks graded easy, medium and hard. Walks are not always in the local Blackstairs Mountains. Easy walks are arranged for the first Sunday of every month and are suitable for beginners. Evening walks Wednesdays and Fridays. Hikes involving scrambling are organised from time to time as are weekends away. Wind-proof and waterproof clothing, walking boots and a rucksack with lunch and extra clothing required. Confirm in advance by facebook/website **w: www.tullowmountaineeringclub.ie**

The Blackstairs Ramblers are a group of hill walkers who as their name suggests, enjoy rambling on the Blackstairs Mountains. They walk on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. A club walk also takes place on Thursday nights accommodating different levels of fitness. See www.blackstairsramblers.com for further details.

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 49 for details.

Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow. See page 14 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 R226 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

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.



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

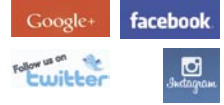
Welcome to Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven. Commitment to excellent customer service, quality products, unbeatable choice and value for money has earned the Arboretum the coveted title of **Garden Centre of the Year 2017** and **National Company of the Year 2016** by Retail Excellence. On a ten-acre site, this family run business is a complete shopping experience with a five star award-winning garden centre plus interior furnishings, a kitchen store, fashion outlet and home to the award-winning Rachel's Garden Café.

Arboretum has also attracted other well-known brands to the centre joining forces with the famous Edinburgh Woollen Mills and Adman Sheds which complement its offering. An entire day can be devoted to just visiting Arboretum so take some time out and relax with friends and family in the famous Rachel's Garden Café. Treat yourself to some of its signature dishes made with the very best local Irish produce. The delicious desserts are all made on the premises and customers special dietary needs are catered for with gluten, sugar or dairy free options. There is a full children's menu with a playground and maze adjacent to the restaurant's outdoor seating area to keep the little ones entertained. Year round Arboretum is a delight to visit reflecting the changing seasons of the gardener's world. At Christmas, Arboretum becomes a Christmas wonderland with a multitude of decorations and gift ideas while in spring and summer, brilliant colours burst from every area of the store. Winner Retail Excellence Garden Centre of The Year 2019. Engaging with customers in a creative way the A List Card rewards customers with personalised gifts and random surprises with invites to regular events, talks and demonstrations. A trip to the Arboretum is like no other so pop in-store today or visit 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. Alternatively visitors travelling directly from Carlow Town may 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.



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, large 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.

carlow garden festival
Saturday July 27th – Monday 5th August 2019



Monty Don

at Arboretum Home & Garden Heaven,
Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
Saturday 3rd August

Tickets from arboretum.ie or
carlowgardentrail.com

Arboretum Inspirational Gardens

Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven has created exclusive display gardens to inspire visitors to imagine and create their own garden dream. These gardens are designed to display different planting schemes and solutions, offering endless ideas that can be easily recreated in people's own gardening space. This beautiful showpiece allows people to see gardening ideas to suit any lifestyle and the concept behind this design was to create a low maintenance garden, full of colour that can deliver endless enjoyment. Tours of Arboretum Inspirational Gardens can be booked on 059-9721558. The Arboretum has a children's playground and maze beside a new terraced area of Rachel's Garden Café so children can play while parents enjoy some tempting home baking. Families can also explore the African mud hut or visit the friendly koi who reside in the Arboretum pond. A visit to these inspirational gardens is a treat for the amateur or the enthusiast. **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

new 2019 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, Railway 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

w: www.borrishouse.com

This garden illustrates the fascinating story of Borris Lace through its predominantly white colour palette and lace inspired flowers. See page 14 for more details.



Burtown House and Gardens

Athy, Co. Kildare R14 AE67

t: 059-8623865

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

Burtown House is one of two 17th century houses in Kildare to never have been sold, and the only house that you can visit, and have guided tours by family members. It is the only original Quaker house in Ireland that can be visited that is still lived in by the family that built it from this period. The gardens at Burtown are made



up of several areas, including large herbaceous borders, shrubberies, a rock garden, a yew walk divided by a pergola, a sundial garden, an old orchard, a more formal stable yard garden, a walled organic vegetable garden and a large woodland garden surrounded on all sides by water. There is a sculpture park set in wildflower meadows with mown pathways. Shop and plant sales area.

FACILITIES: Car park, toilets, artisan food, retail shop and plant sales area. 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: February – October, 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday and Bank Holidays. Also 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, being voted the best place to visit in Carlow by Trip Advisor several years running. The gardens are suitable for visitors of all abilities and age groups, with something different to offer on every visit. Advance bookings advisable for groups. The café offers everything from breakfast and lunch right through to afternoon tea - the café is relaxing, spacious and provides a fine array of choices, all freshly prepared on site. Locally sourced produce is prepared on site using commercial kitchens. 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. Small gift shop offering beautiful handcrafted goods that are original and affordable. Also available are cards for all occasions and beautiful original ceramics, candles and plant holders.



FACILITIES: Car park, toilets, wheelchair accessible, restaurant.
HOW TO FIND US: 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. – 5.30 p.m., weekends and Public Holidays 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
ADMISSION: Adults €5, concessions €4, children free accompanied by adult. Group rate available.

Duckett's Grove 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. Tea room on site providing tea, coffee, delicious cakes and snacks. 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.

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.



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. **OPENING TIMES:** 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 14 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

Consisting of a series of interconnecting herbal gardens there is a large kitchen garden, a medicinal herb courtyard, a medieval monastic herb garden and a garden of aromatic and fragrant herbs.



The kitchen garden consists of gravel paths and eleven raised timber beds of varying sizes grouped to form a modern rectangular "potager". The medicinal garden, set in a granite courtyard, consists of nine raised beds in Irish oak timber. The aromatic garden is planted with herbs for fragrance and also for their usefulness in cosmetic preparations. In an adjoining courtyard there is a modern interpretation of a medieval monastic herb garden with four oak raised beds surrounded on two sides by an oak timber cloister. A circular cosmic garden helps to explain and facilitate our understanding of the ancient belief that there is a connection between people, plants, planets and constellations.

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.

OPENING TIMES: First Sunday of the month and Bank Holiday Mondays 2 – 6 p.m. May – September. Groups and other times by appointment. **ADMISSION:** €3. Tea and coffee available.

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

facebook

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

Winner of the RDS Irish Forestry Awards 2013

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.

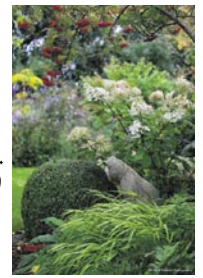


Patthana Gardens
Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow
GPS: 52.9048235, -6.606162 t: 086-1944547

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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. 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

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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, 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 15 for more details.

**new
2019**

The Carlow Garden Trail is delighted to welcome the following affiliate members in 2019. 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 bio-diversity 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. 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

facebook

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.

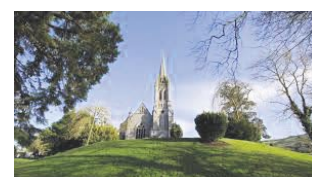
FACILITIES: Car park. **HOW TO FIND US:** In Carlow Town on the Old Dublin Road. **OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Friday 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday by arrangement. **ADMISSION:** Free.



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 (beside Carlow Cathedral)

Tel: 059 9131554 Email: museum@carlowcoco.ie

www.carlowmuseum.ie





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



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