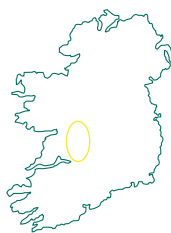




## Lough Derg Blueway

### Heritage and Culture



## Welcome to Ireland's Blueways

### Do it your way and create your own unique Blueway experience.

Whether you're into paddling, walking, cycling, or simply hooked on the outdoors, make yours a trip to remember on Ireland's Blueways.

Activity trails along the Lough Derg Blueway provide a scenic perspective into the heart of the Irish landscape. From leisurely strolls and gentle paddles to adrenaline-filled days on land and water - Blueways offer tailor-made trips like no other.

Timelessness meets 'time of your life' when you arrive on a Blueway. So create your own adventure or take it at your own pace and do the Blueways your way!

While you're enjoying these Blueway trails, there's so much more to see and do in the local area. The following range of guides have been created to help you make the most of your visit to the Blueways:



**Festivals, Dining and Accommodation** – This guide helps you to find the festivals to go to, where to eat and the place to rest your head after a full day.



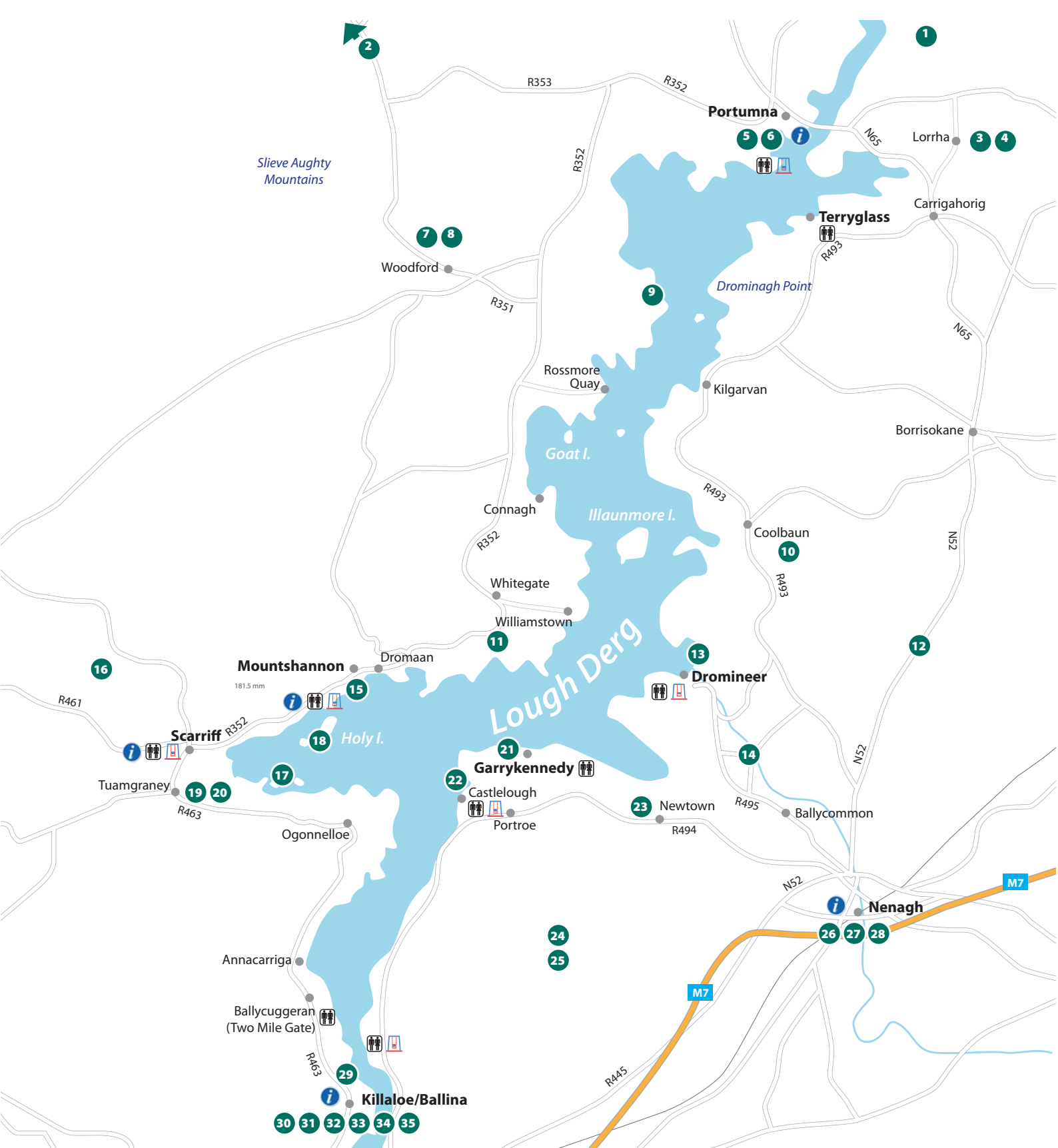
**Heritage and Culture** – With the Blueways Guide to Heritage and Culture, you can take a break from all that Blueway activity and choose to step back in time.



**Made in Lough Derg (Arts, Crafts and Food)** – With the guide to Arts, Crafts and Food, you will be able to use your trip to the Blueway to explore traditional skills and taste locally produced food.



**Outdoor Activity** – The Outdoor Activity Guide provides you with so many reasons to celebrate being in the great outdoors.



## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

An extensive network of Blueways trails are being developed throughout the region, refer to [www.bluewaysireland.org](http://www.bluewaysireland.org) for up-to-date details and places to eat, stay and go.



Information



Toilets



Playground

Additional heritage information can be found in the following locations:

[www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/heritage/](http://www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/heritage/)  
<http://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>  
[www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage)

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## 1 Redwood Castle

Originally constructed around 1210 by an Anglo-Norman family the De Cougans, Redwood Castle's close proximity to the River Shannon meant it had a very strategic position. It fell into disrepair for 300 years and during that time it is believed that it took three men a fortnight to cut through the 11 foot thick western wall so that it could be used as a stable. Now the fully restored Castle is one of the main historical attractions in the midlands of Ireland, why not come and take a guided tour and live the history of the Castle and surrounding area.



📍 Co Tipperary 🗓️ Open summer months for tours  
☎️ +353 (0)87 7479566  
✉️ coleesa.ireland@gmail.com  
🌐 www.redwoodcastleireland.com

## 2 St. Feichín's Abbey & Ladywell

Abbey village got its name from the Carthusian monastery founded in 1252 but St. Feichín had already founded a monastery there in the 6th century. Nearby Ladywell is a holy well believed to have healing properties for toothache, eye complaints and warts. There is a very pleasant Golden Mile walk from Abbey into quiet countryside with occasional glimpses of Lough Derg (follow signs for holy well).



📍 Kilnalahan, Abbey village, Co Galway 🗓️ Year round  
🌐 www.abbey.galwaycommunityheritage.org

## 3 Lorrha Monastic Village

Lorrha Monastic Village has a wealth of historic sites and stories covering thousands of years of history. It has been an important centre for religion, education, law and politics, and it has suffered numerous Viking raids and an attempted assassination of St Patrick. This beautiful village is home to Lackeen Castle and Lorrha Abbey (see number 4), as well as a community run café and shop and guided tours of the area are also available.



📍 Lorrha, Co Tipperary  
🗓️ Selected dates. Contact for details  
☎️ +353 (0)909 747204  
✉️ info@lorrhadorrha.ie  
🌐 www.visitlorrhadorrha.com

## 4 Lackeen Castle and Lorrha Abbey

The O'Kennedys, built Lackeen castle in the 12th century. The four-storey tower-house is still in good condition and can be visited by the public. Three miles from Lorrha, it stands in a ruined bawn or high defensive wall. In the 18th century the early Christian manuscript known as the 'Stowe Missal', was found inside a stone wall of the castle. Lorrha also had three abbeys located there at different times. In AD540, St. Ruadhan founded a monastery that became a great centre of learning. In the churchyard can be seen the stumps of two early high crosses dating to around AD750. St. Ruadhan's Well, from which the monastery drew its water, is nearby. The present ruins date from the 15th century and the remains include lancet windows and a five-light window on the east wall, while the doorway is topped by a carved head of Walter De Burgo.



📍 Lorrha, Co Tipperary  
☎️ +353 (0)86 3308 172  
✉️ info@lorrhadorrha.ie  
🌐 www.visitlorrhadorrha.com

## 5 Portumna Castle and Gardens

Visit this great 17th century semi-fortified house and imagine what life would have been like for the gentry and servants of a great house in the west of Ireland. Walk in their footsteps through the formal gardens and the wonderfully restored walled kitchen garden. Built before 1618, it is situated on the shores of Lough Derg and surrounded by approximately 1,000 acres of award-winning parkland with walkways, trails and observation points. The castle is within walking distance of Portumna town, with its variety of restaurants, shops, children's playground and more. A free guided tour of the castle is available in which experienced guides will bring the history and stories of the former owners, the Burke family, earls of Clanricarde, to life in an interesting and factual way.



📍 Portumna, Co Galway  
🗓️ Daily 9.30am-6pm. Last admission 5.15pm. Mid October-9.30am to 17.00 weekends only  
☎️ +353 (0)909 741658  
✉️ portumnacastle@opw.ie / marie.gibbs@opw.ie  
🌐 www.heritageireland.ie

## BRIAN BORU AND LOUGH DERG



Brian Boru was born around 940 in Killaloe and together with a group of soldiers, he lived in the hills of Munster and attacked Norse settlements. Combining with his brother Mahon's forces they triumphed and over-whelmed the Vikings in Munster. However, Brian succeeded his brother and step by step he established himself in the Kingship of Munster. In time Brian became the "Ard Ri", or high king of

Ireland claiming the monarchy of the whole Gaelic race.

The Vikings returned and along with the Earl of Orkney, attacked and were defeated by Brian at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. However, as the Vikings were retreating, one of their leaders, Bothair, murdered Brian. Ireland was never again to have a king to control the entire island. His headquarters was in Killaloe and the remains of his ringfort are on the shores of Lough Derg.

## 6 Portumna Workhouse and Heritage Trail

Portumna Workhouse opened in 1851 and was closed when the workhouses were abolished in the 1920s. Gradually the building fell out of use until revived in 2011 as an education, tourism and conservation project to tell the story of the workhouse system.

You can visit and tour the workhouse buildings, relive what it was like to be part of the workhouse system, see some of the original furniture and fittings and watch the video on the workhouse system. The workhouse is also occasionally used as a venue for exhibitions or events so keep an eye on their website. The workhouse is also the tourist information office where you can also find out about the Portumna Heritage Trail and the Audio tour see [www.visitportumna.com/heritagetrail.html](http://www.visitportumna.com/heritagetrail.html). There are 30 different heritage sites in the town which you can visit as part of a leisurely local walk.



Portumna, Co Galway 📅 7 days, March-October  
 ☎ +353 (0)909 759200  
 ✉ [info@irishworkhousecentre.ie](mailto:info@irishworkhousecentre.ie)  
 🌐 [www.irishworkhousecentre.ie](http://www.irishworkhousecentre.ie)

## 7 Woodford Heritage Centre

In the pleasant village of Woodford, a school building erected in 1834, is now the home of Woodford Heritage Group. The group has researched and published local guides and histories of the 19th century campaign against land evictions as well as the story of western Lough Derg and a guide to places of interest in Woodford. Woodford Heritage Centre is also home to the East Galway Family History Society.



Woodford Heritage Centre, Woodford, Co Galway  
 📅 Monday - Thursday (9am to 5pm) and Friday (9am to 12:30pm)  
 ☎ +353 (0)909 749309 ✉ [galwayroots@eircom.net](mailto:galwayroots@eircom.net)  
 🌐 [www.galwayroots.com/](http://www.galwayroots.com/)  
 🌐 [www.galwayroots.com/east/woodford-heritage-centre](http://www.galwayroots.com/east/woodford-heritage-centre)

## 8 East Galway Family History Society

Anyone with a family link to east Galway may find details of their ancestors by visiting the East Galway Family History Society based in Woodford. Visitors can drop in or ring for an appointment to commence family history searches. Additionally, a research form can be emailed or submitted via their website. People can also undertake searches of the Society's records at <http://galwayeast.rootsireland.ie/> and email any queries from this site to the centre.



Woodford Heritage Centre, Woodford, Co Galway  
 📅 Monday-Friday, advance appointment advised  
 ☎ +353 (0)909 749309  
 ✉ [galwayroots@eircom.net](mailto:galwayroots@eircom.net) 🌐 [www.galwayeast.rootsireland.ie](http://www.galwayeast.rootsireland.ie)

## 9 Cloondadau Castle and Quay

A four-storey towerhouse has stood here since the mid-15th century. It has many features found in a fortified towerhouse, such as a bartizan or overhanging turret and a machicolation or walled-in floor opening above the door to allow missiles and burning liquid to be poured down on attackers. Close to the castle is Cloondadau Quay, which was probably built for the use of the castle.



📍 Cloondadau, Gorteeny, near Woodford, Co Galway  
 📅 No access to interior  
 🌐 [places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/45656](http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/45656) GPS: 53.042757, -8.290706

## 10 Tullaun Castle

Tullaun castle, known locally as The Black Castle, was built in the 16th century for the Gaelic O'Kennedy family who had ancestral links to Brian Ború. It stands on a rock outcrop, with an arched stone doorway and cut-stone windows that contrast with its many defensive arrow slits. The entrance was protected by a 'murder hole' (still intact) for firing or pouring boiling liquid down. Tullaun castle is currently being restored by its owners, who are hoping to return it to its former glory, and have now restored the Great Hall and its vaulted ceiling. Tours can be arranged.



📍 Lisquillibeen, Coolbawn, Co Tipperary  
 📅 Email in advance to arrange tour  
 ✉ [tullauncastle@yahoo.ie](mailto:tullauncastle@yahoo.ie)  
 🌐 [www.tullauncastle.com/](http://www.tullauncastle.com/) / [www.facebook.com/pg/tullauncastle](https://www.facebook.com/pg/tullauncastle)

## 11 Clonrush Church and Graveyard

Clonrush graveyard is located on the site of a ruined 12th century church. In the 17th century a large, stone archway was added to the south wall of the church. Known as the 'funeral gate', it is the doorway of a vanished house once attached to the church where coffins were left overnight before burial. The marks of St. Colman's knees are said to be visible on the flagstone floor from when he knelt to pray there. Some grave inscriptions date from 1758.



📍 Whitegate, Co Clare  
 📅 Year round  
 🌐 [www.clonrush.eu](http://www.clonrush.eu)  
 GPS: 52.9364, -8.3542

## 12 Ardcroney Castle, Church and Graveyard

People have lived in the area around Ardcroney since at least the Neolithic era, judging by the wealth of archaeological remains. These include two unusual Linkardstown-style burials, a portal tomb, an early medieval ringfort and a motte and bailey. The church is a single-cell structure built from rough limestone blocks, which was probably extended in the 16th century by adding a nave, chancel and chancel arch, which can still be seen. Linked to the church by a defensive bawn wall is Ardcroney castle, a four-storey towerhouse built in the 14th century.



📍 Ardcroney (N52), Co Tipperary  
 📅 Year round  
 🌐 [www.culturalheritageireland.ie/index.php/heritage-sites-and-centres/113-the-medieval-church-and-tower-house-at-ardcroney-near-nenagh-co-tipperary](http://www.culturalheritageireland.ie/index.php/heritage-sites-and-centres/113-the-medieval-church-and-tower-house-at-ardcroney-near-nenagh-co-tipperary)  
 GPS: 52.56719, -8.09900

## 13 Dromineer Castle

Dromineer is known to date to at least the 12th century because the ruined church and graveyard in the centre of the village are in the Romanesque style, which flourished in Ireland before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. Dromineer castle is located at the waterfront beside the steamboat pier. It is a hall house, rather than a towerhouse, as it was two storeys high with the entrance on the first floor. The castle was set within a bawn or defensive wall, some of which remains. It fell into ruin in the 18th century.



📍 Dromineer village, Co Tipperary

🏰 No access to building

🌐 [www.dromineercastle.org/index.php/history-of-the-castle/from-dr-jason-boltons-report/](http://www.dromineercastle.org/index.php/history-of-the-castle/from-dr-jason-boltons-report/) GPS: 52.553211, -8.163607

## 14 Ballyartella Mill and Woollen Mills'

The ruined Ballyartella Castle was probably built to control the ford and weir. Today it is a ruin and unsafe to enter. Milling, powered by a millrace, has been recorded here since the 1500s and three separate mills operated here over the centuries.



In 1893 Hanly Woollen Mills moved their woollen weaving business to a vacant flour mill here. John Hanlys still use only water-generated electricity to make their high-quality woollens and textiles. The Slí Eala walking trail links Ballyartella to Dromineer on the lake shore. With a shop choc-full of high-quality woollens, it is an ideal resting point.

📍 Off the R495 road from Nenagh to Dromineer

🏰 Monday-Friday, business hours, closed for lunch (Hanly mill); cycling and walking during daylight

🌐 [www.johnhanly.com/](http://www.johnhanly.com/) [www.discoverloughderg.ie/john-hanly-co-ltd-factory-shop/](http://www.discoverloughderg.ie/john-hanly-co-ltd-factory-shop/)

GPS: 52.901784, -8.238847

## 15 Aistear Heritage Park



Aistear means 'journey' in Irish and this heritage park provides a lovely quirky place to relax, let the children wander about through its nooks and crannies, gaze at the lake or indeed reflect on the evolution of spirituality in Ireland. The park links the main street and the harbour along a pleasant pathway with plenty of distractions. A maze made of timber, stone and plants undulates and winds around part of the park. This is a pathway back in time, indicating seven periods from prehistory to the present during which spirituality has evolved.

The Aistear also has an outdoor exhibition area in a sunken courtyard, a playground, a picnic and recreation area and a labyrinth. It also has an outdoor gym and some information panels on the area. There is a visitor centre in the middle of the park and you can get some information heritage there as well as an exhibition on Holy Island.

As a place to stop off for a short time to unwind, have a picnic, make your way to the lake and the nearby playground, soak up the atmosphere of the park and all for free.

📍 South side of Main St, Mountshannon, Co Clare

🏰 Year round

🌐 [mountshannon.ie/resources/Mountshannon%20Visitor%27s%20Information.pdf](http://mountshannon.ie/resources/Mountshannon%20Visitor%27s%20Information.pdf)

## 16 Irish Seed Savers Association



The Irish Seed Savers Association collects, preserves and encourages the growing of heritage food crops that have been displaced and threatened with extinction. Hundreds of old varieties of Irish vegetables, fruits and grains suitable for our climate have been saved for future use. You can visit their landscaped seed gardens and orchards, eat food that has been grown just outside the café and buy a wide range of seeds, plants, books, accessories and tools through its shop or website.

📍 Capparoo, Scariff, Co Clare

🏰 Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm; Saturday 12pm-4.30pm

Free admission for children and subscribers

☎ +353 (0)61 921856 / +353 (0)61 821866

✉ [info@irishseedsavers.ie](mailto:info@irishseedsavers.ie)

🌐 [www.irishseedsavers.ie](http://www.irishseedsavers.ie)

## 17 Castlebawn Castle

Most medieval towerhouses were ruined as a result of wars or conquest. In the case of Castlebawn the authorities tried to blow it up in 1827 because it had become a den for poitín makers. Built on an island near Scariff around 1540, it was bought in 1995 and restoration began. The castle has re-opened for visits in summer – though not to poitín makers.



📍 Island in Scariff Bay, Lough Derg, Co Clare

🏰 By appointment. Access by boat only

☎ +353 (0)87 292 0880 🌐 [www.castlebawn.com](http://www.castlebawn.com)

## 18 Holy Island / Inis Cealtra

Holy Island is on the UNESCO world heritage tentative list for Ireland as an early medieval monastic site along with Clonmacnoise, Durrow, Glendalough, Kells and Monasterboice.

This famous, early Christian monastic site is on an island on Lough Derg. The Irish name 'Inis Cealtra' means 'church island'. The first recorded monastery was founded by St Colm in the 6th century and today it holds the remains of a round tower, six early churches, a holy well, a graveyard with 8th century grave slabs, bullaun stones, a cell and a 'bargaining stone' where marriages were agreed and vows renewed. It is also a place of great beauty and tranquillity.



There are daily tours of Holy Island from the pier at Mountshannon but bring your wellies as while the monastic sites are in very good condition it can be mucky on the trail near the pier.

Caimin and Saoirse, a pair of magnificent white-tailed sea eagles, have chosen to nest and breed in Lough Derg near Mountshannon. Such birds were once common in Ireland but died out over 100 years ago. They were re-introduced in 2007 in a conservation project to reverse biodiversity loss. To look out for Caimin and Saoirse, go to the viewing and information point at Mountshannon pier where there are free telescopes/binoculars, guides and information displays.

- 📍 Lough Derg, 2 kms offshore from Mountshannon, Co Clare
- 📅 Guided tours April-end September
- ☎ +353 (0)61 921615 (Tours) / +353 (0)86 874 9710 (Gerard Madden)
- ✉ (Tours) gerardmadden@eircom.net
- 🌐 [www.holyisland.ie](http://www.holyisland.ie)

## 19 St. Cronan's Church Tuamgraney

St. Cronan's church is the oldest church still in continuous use in Ireland. Constructed from large blocks of sandstone testifying to the skill of its builders, the doorway is built of inclined rectangular blocks. Inside there is a carved stone female head. Known as Gráinne, it is reputed to represent the sun goddess Grian. The church also houses an elaborate three-light stained glass window. St. Cronan's parish is part of the Church of Ireland Killaloe Union of parishes.



- 📍 Tuamgraney, Co Clare
- 📅 Check in advance for service times
- 🌐 [www.discoverloughderg.ie/tuamgraney-church](http://www.discoverloughderg.ie/tuamgraney-church)

## 20 Grady Towerhouse Tuamgraney

The O'Grady's were an influential Gaelic family around Lough Derg in the Middle Ages. In about 1550, they built this fortified towerhouse beside St. Cronan's church to protect it and to control the nearby ford at Scariff. The three-storey towerhouse probably had a battlemented parapet wall around the roof. The family usually occupied the top storey of a towerhouse. A machicolation or opening over the doorway would have allowed stones and boiling liquid to be dropped on attackers.



- 📍 R643, Tuamgraney, Co Clare
- 🌐 [www.megalithicireland.com/O'Grady's%20Castle,%20Tuamgraney.html](http://www.megalithicireland.com/O'Grady's%20Castle,%20Tuamgraney.html)
- GPS: 52.5349, -8.3224

## 21 Garrykennedy Castle

Building this towerhouse in the 15th century allowed the Gaelic families of O'Kennedy and O'Brien to control this territory, with the harbour providing strategic access to the lake. However, the arrival of Cromwellian forces in the 1650s broke both the power of the Gaelic families and ruined the castle. It was important to Garrykennedy's development as it was a docking area for landing all sorts of goods transported along the lake and then distributed inland.



- 📍 R494 from Nenagh, then turn off for Garrykennedy
- 🌐 [www.facebook.com/pg/Garrykennedy-Lough-Derg-Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Garrykennedy-Lough-Derg-Ireland)
- GPS: 52.5420, -8.2045

## 22 Castletown Church and Graveyard

This church and graveyard a kilometre outside Castletown village is a perfect place to stop and rest awhile. The restored church, built sometime around the late 16th century, is in good repair and the graveyard is kept in a pristine state. Just 200m away is Castletown Woods on the shores of Lough Derg, where there is parking, toilets, a playground and an information map of local walking and cycling trails. From the carpark a trail leads through natural woodland in which red squirrels live.



- 📍 1km Castletown village, near Portroe, Co Tipperary
- 📅 Year round
- 🌐 [www.discoverloughderg.ie](http://www.discoverloughderg.ie) GPS: 52.53162, -8.233731

## 23 Youghal Village

This scenic village has many interesting reminders of ordinary life in time past. It has a holy well and tree, an abandoned limekiln, a ruined church and graveyard, a quay and a 20th century handball alley. The holy well is a natural spring and is still used. In front of the well is a traditional rag bush where people left offerings of small personal items. Before ordinary people had access to doctors, holy wells like this were relied upon to cure ailments. The limekiln, once important for making lime for farming and building, was built around 1780.



- 📍 Youghal (R494), Newtown, Co Tipperary 📅 Open access
- 🌐 [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com) GPS: 52.5345, -8.2530

## 24 Millennium Cross

For a spectacular view of Lough Derg, there is no better spot than Loughtea Hill in the Arra Mountains, where you will look down on the great expanse of the lake and beyond. On the summit stands a 20-metre high stainless steel cross, which was installed in 2002 to mark the millennium. An earlier cross, made mainly of concrete, was erected in 1932 when the Eucharistic Congress took place in Dublin. It collapsed soon after. To reach the Millennium Cross, take the Ballina to Portroe road (R494) for 6km and follow the track for 2.4km. There is a small parking area and bench to rest your legs.



- 📍 Loughtea Hill, southwest of Portroe, in the Arra Mountains, Co Tipperary 📅 Year round
- 🌐 [www.discoverloughderg.ie/millennium-cross-walk/](http://www.discoverloughderg.ie/millennium-cross-walk/) ([www.walkingroutes.ie/2070-Arra-Mountain-Loop](http://www.walkingroutes.ie/2070-Arra-Mountain-Loop))

## 25 Graves of the Leinster Men

The Graves of the Leinster Men is an early Bronze Age chamber tomb comprising a row of slabs that lie in vegetation on Tountinna hill 500ft above Lough Derg. Only one stone remains upright. Curiously, all the stones differ geologically, some being granite, some limestone or conglomerate. A party of men led by the king of Leinster was ambushed and killed, they asked to be buried here within sight of Leinster. You can enjoy fantastic views from the top. To get there, turn right off the R494 from Ballina three miles from Portroe and follow signs to a parking space at the communication mast.



- 📍 Ballina to Portroe road (R494), Co Tipperary 🗓️ Year round
- 🌐 [www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Publications/North Tipperary Walking Trails Guide.pdf](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/sites/default/files/Publications/North%20Tipperary%20Walking%20Trails%20Guide.pdf)

## 26 North Tipperary Genealogy Centre

A person who has any family connection with North Tipperary can come to this treasure house of local records and, with the help of a professional genealogist, they may trace a forebear or even an entire family tree. They might even find some had spent time in the gaol run by the governor in whose house the service is based. All the genealogical records of North Tipperary, such as church baptismal and marriage records, civil births, deaths and marriages, tithe books and old newspapers are on computer for immediate examination. The family research service is run by North Tipperary County Council.



- 📍 The Governor's House, Kickham St, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
- 🗓️ Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm ☎️ +353 (0)67 33850
- ✉️ [tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net](mailto:tipperarynorthgenealogy@eircom.net)
- 🌐 [www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage/genealogy-centre/](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage/genealogy-centre/)  
[www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

## 27 Nenagh Castle

Nenagh Castle, with its beautiful circular tower, was built by the Anglo-Norman Theobald FitzWalter around AD1220 and from this defensive base Nenagh developed as a town. The stone tower is topped by a circle of graceful, round-topped windows and a stepped parapet. The keep is four storeys high with a spiral staircase to the top. Despite its might, it was surrendered to the Cromwellian general Henry Ireton who had pounded it with artillery. It was first restored in the 1860s. Today visitors can take a free guided tour.



- 📍 O'Rahilly St, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
- 🗓️ April-October, Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4.30pm
- ☎️ +353 (0)67 33850 ✉️ [castlenenagh@gmail.com](mailto:castlenenagh@gmail.com)
- 🌐 [www.hiddentipperary.com/castles/nenagh-castle](http://www.hiddentipperary.com/castles/nenagh-castle)

## 28 Nenagh Heritage Centre

Nenagh Heritage Centre can be found in the former Governor's House of Tipperary County Gaol. The governor of a 19th century Irish prison lived in far greater comfort than his prisoners and so the house is a handsome, six-sided stone building. The Centre will help you step back in time, with its many exhibits of earlier times. There is a model of the gaol itself and a recreation of the gaol's original kitchen. A 1913 schoolroom has been recreated and you can see what the condemned prisoners' cells were like and the execution area.



- 📍 The Governor's House, Kickham St, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
- 🗓️ Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm ☎️ +353 (0)67 33850
- ✉️ [nenaghheritage@eircom.net](mailto:nenaghheritage@eircom.net)
- 🌐 [www.tipperarynorth.ie/heritagemuseum](http://www.tipperarynorth.ie/heritagemuseum)

## 29 Brian Ború's Fort / Béal Bóramha

A large ringfort stood here, with a high, stone-lined embankment and a very wide outer ditch, built around the 10th century. Brian Ború lived here for a time, showing how important the lake was as a highway for commerce and war and a place where tribes paid tribute in the form of cattle. Brian's armies sailed to their battles along Lough Derg and the Shannon. Stone Age people also lived around here and over 800 of their axes and tools have been found.



- 📍 Outside Killaloe on Tuamgraney road (R463). Look for signpost
- 🗓️ Year round
- ☎️ +353 (0)61 682 1616 (Clare County Council Tourism Office)
- ✉️ [info@visiteastclare.ie](mailto:info@visiteastclare.ie)
- 🌐 [www.visiteastclare.ie/project/brian-borus-fort](http://www.visiteastclare.ie/project/brian-borus-fort)

## 30 Ring of Lough Derg Heritage Tours

Given all of the heritage around Lough Derg why not avail of a heritage tour with your own guide who knows the best places and hidden gems. You can book this tour online or call into the Ring of Lough Derg tourist office on the bridge in Killalloe.

- 📍 The Bridge, Killalloe
- ☎️ +353 (0)87 441 0128
- 🌐 [www.theringofloughderg.ie](http://www.theringofloughderg.ie)

## 31 Killaloe Heritage Walking Tours

Scenic Killaloe is steeped in history from its churches and early Christian saints to its quaint streets and sheltering hills. A guided tour of Killaloe will enrich your knowledge of this heritage town's architectural and historic legacy. Hear the stories of High King Brian Ború whose fortress/palace, Kincora, overlooked the town and visit some of the sites associated with him. Tours can be arranged to suit individual schedules at different price ranges.

- 📍 Walks start from front of Library building at the bridge, Killaloe, Co Clare
- 🗓️ Phone for details ☎️ +353 (0)86 803 5157
- ✉️ [unakierse@gmail.com](mailto:unakierse@gmail.com) 🐦 @KillaloeHeritageTours
- 🌐 [www.facebook.com/KillaloeHeritageTours](http://www.facebook.com/KillaloeHeritageTours)

## 32 Killaloe Canal and Bridges

The canal was built to bypass dangerous rapids in the river until 1929, when the Ardnacrusha dam raised water levels. Some mooring rings and bollards dating from the 1790s can still be seen. The single-arch Lock Bridge allows boats move along the canal under the bridge road to the river. Three original cranes and part of a winch, used to hoist boats into dry dock for repair, can still be seen.



The bridge at Killaloe-Ballina has always been a strategic link between east and west and the Shannon waterways. The first recorded bridge was a wooden structure built in AD1013. The present 13-arch stone bridge was first built around 1770 but altered many times with changes in transport and technology. South of the bridge now is a metal eel weir used to trap eels in season.



Downstream local washerwomen took the unheard of action of lying down across the railway cutting and refusing to move in protest over their access to the river being blocked. Finally it was agreed to build the stone and metal footbridge over the line so they could get to the river bank and make their living. The bridge today gives access to a riverside walk.

📍 Killaloe-Ballina, Cos Clare/Tipperary  
[www.tipperary.com/sites/default/files/files/Lough Derg Heritage Trail.pdf](http://www.tipperary.com/sites/default/files/files/Lough Derg Heritage Trail.pdf) GPS: 52.8082, -8.4374

## 33 Templechally Church

This ruined church, which overlooks the Shannon, was built in the 12th century in the Gothic style of architecture that flourished in the Middle Ages. This humble church, built of rough sandstone, has the remains of a gothic arched door in the south wall. There is also a sandstone piscina, a shallow bowl that was used for washing altar vessels. Although sometimes written as Templekelly, its name in Irish means the 'church of the callows' or river meadows. In the graveyard you will see hand-carved slate grave slabs dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.



📍 Birdhill Road, Ballina, Co Tipperary. A gate is reached via a tarmac laneway and there is a basic carparking area on the western side of the main road. 🕒 Year round.

## 34 Killaloe Cathedrals and Churches

St. Flannan's church was built in 1835 and is graced by a beautiful, stained glass window by Harry Clarke, the outstanding stained glass artist. The Church of Ireland cathedral, also named St. Flannan's, was built between 1195 and 1225. Although Gothic in style it retains the rounded, carved doorway of the earlier Romanesque church it replaced. St. Flannan's Oratory, an 11th century church, stands on the cathedral grounds. Across the river in Ballina is found the Church of Our Lady and St. Lua built in 1845.



📍 Killaloe/Ballina, Co Clare  
 🕒 Walking route year round. Church opening times differ, check in advance  
 ☎️ +353 (0)61 6821616 (Clare County Council Tourism Office)  
 🌐 [www.visiteastclare.ie/project/killaloe-historic-town-trail](http://www.visiteastclare.ie/project/killaloe-historic-town-trail)

## 35 St. Flannan's Cathedral

The bells of St. Flannan's Church of Ireland cathedral in Killaloe can still be heard every Sunday, nearly 800 years after it was built, and it has served as a centre of worship in all that time. Inside are elaborate carved columns, a carved stone font and a unique stone inscribed in both Ogham, the early Irish writing, and in runic script, saying 'Thorgrim carved this cross' and calling a blessing upon him. A personal tour, a visit to the top of the tower for amazing views and a chance to ring the bells, can be arranged (Bryan 061 375389).



📍 Royal Parade, Killaloe, Co Clare  
 🕒 9am-6pm, daily. Sunday service 11.30am.  
 ☎️ +353 (0)374 779 (Deanery) / +353 (0)61 375389  
 ✉️ [dean@killaloe.anglican.org](mailto:dean@killaloe.anglican.org)  
 🌐 [www.cathedral.killaloe.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.killaloe.anglican.org)



# Lough Derg Blueway Heritage and Culture

